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**Department of the Army
United States Army Intelligence and Security Command
United States Army Intelligence and Threat Analysis Center**

Army Country Profile—Mexico, Part I (U)

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Preface (U)

(U) The Army Country Profile (ACP) provides intelligence information on a selected country and is published in five parts, each relating to a specific area of intelligence. A compilation of finished intelligence to support tactical commanders and contingency planners, the ACP is useful both for real-world situations and tactical training. Part I of the product is disseminated with a cover sheet, end spine, Commander's memorandum, and tab sheets that identify each part. Commands may receive Part II or Part III prior to Part I. In that event, file the part received in a three-ring binder; other parts will be forwarded when completed.

(U) Part I, *Ground Forces*, describes the ground forces components of the selected country; Part II, *Intelligence and Security*, discusses the counter-intelligence of the country and how it would affect a US deployment to the country; Part III, *Military Geography*, addresses specific characteristics and factors of military geography; Part IV, *Medical Intelligence*, analyzes local environment and health factors that may influence US military operations; and Part V, *Psychological Operations*, provides a psychological profile of the country's military forces.

(U) Part I of the *ACP Mexico* was drafted by Mr. Lance Jones, Latin America Branch, Asia/Americas Division, US Army Intelligence and Threat Analysis Center (USAITAC). Special thanks to Mr. Salvador Rodriguez (Asia/Americas Division, USAITAC), Dr. Marisabel Bras (Special Research Division, USAITAC), and MAJ Ron Brown, Defense Intelligence Agency.

(U) This document has been coordinated with the National Security Agency. The interpretation of the intelligence information that is provided represents the views of the USAITAC and may be subject to modification upon receipt of subsequent information.

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Summary (U)

(u)
(CONF) In October 1987, Carlos Salinas de Gortari was selected by President Miguel de la Madrid as the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) candidate for the 1988 Mexican presidential election. At the time, Salinas, viewed as a highly educated economist, was the Programing and Budget Secretary for the government. He was also seen by many as too young and too politically inexperienced to guide the troubled Mexican Government competently. In July 1988, Salinas won the presidential election against an unusually strong opposition by taking 51 percent of the vote. On 1 December 1988, Carlos Salinas de Gortari was inaugurated as President of Mexico. Although counterdrugs is his top priority, Salinas has national debt, economic and military modernization, immigration, trade, and anticorruption issues leading his administration's proposed agenda. These priorities can be expected to remain in place through the end of President Salinas' term in 1994 and into the succeeding presidency.

(u)
(CONF) Currently, the Armed Forces of Mexico comprise an Army, Air Force, Navy, and paramilitary Rural Defense Corps (CDR). The component armed forces are organized under two separate Cabinet Ministers. The Army, Air Force, and Rural Defense Corps are subordinate to the Secretary of Defense; the Navy, including Naval Air, the Marine Forces, and general maritime activities, fall under

the Secretary of the Navy. The active armed forces total 175,000, not including the 14,000 of the CDR. Roughly 90,000 personnel are trained each year for placement within the ground force reserves.

(u)
(S/NF) The leading problems that continue to hamper the Mexican military are obsolete and heterogeneous equipment, lack of logistical control and technical maintenance, overcentralization, corruption, and inadequate training.

(u)
(S/NF) The Army is capable of maintaining public order, but this capability depends on how widespread civil unrest becomes. The military would not be able to control a broad-based anti-government movement, but such an uprising is unlikely to happen in the near future.

(u)
(S/NF) Mexican authorities are extremely sensitive to its military associating with any foreign armed forces. Relations between US and Mexican military officers are correct, but formal. Under the current Secretary of National Defense, General Antonio Riviello Bazan, more lines of communication have been established and opportunities for exchange between the two militaries have broadened. However, relations probably will continue to expand at a slow pace because of historical antecedents, contentious bilateral immigration, and drug enforcement-related issues.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms (U)
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B

BE Basic Encyclopedia

C

CABI Individual Basic Training Center (*Centro de Adiestramiento Basico Individual*)
CDN National Defense College (*Colegio de Defensa Nacional*)
CDR Rural Defense Corps (*Cuerpos de Defensas Rurales*)
CNO Chief of Naval Operations
CUPAC Combat Patrolling Course (*Curso de Patrullas de Combate*)

D

DGISN General Directorate of Investigations and National Security

E

EMCA *Escuela Militar de Clases de las Armas*

F

FAM Mexican Air Force (*Fuerza Aerea Mexicana*)

G

GAFE Special Forces Airmobile Group (*Grupo Aeromovil de las Fuerzas Especiales*)
GDP Gross Domestic Product

L

LAC Light Automatic Carbine

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms, continued (U)

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M

MP	Military Police
MTC	Military Training Center

N

NDH	National Defense Headquarters
-----	-------------------------------

P

PR	Retransmission Platoon (<i>Peloton de Retransmision</i>)
PRI	Institutional Revolutionary Party (<i>Partido Revolucionario Institucional</i>)

S

SDN	Secretary of National Defense
SMN	National Military Service (<i>Servicio Militar Nacional</i>)
SOF	Special Operations Forces
SP	Sergeant First Class (<i>Sargento Primero</i>)
SS	Staff Sergeant (<i>Sargento Segundo</i>)

T

TFM	Task Force Marte
-----	------------------

List of Place Names (U)

(This list is UNCLASSIFIED)

Place Name	Geographic Coordinate
Acapulco	1650N09954W
Aguascalientes	2152N10217W
Campeche	1951N09032W
Campo Militar No. 1	1926N09913W
Cancun	2105N08646W
Chetumal	1830N08818W
Chiapas	1630N09230W
Chihuahua	2830N10600W
Cozumel	2031N08655W
Cuautepec	1537N09200W
Cuernavaca	1855N09915W
Culiacan	2447N10722W
Dolores	2516N10056W
Durango	2402N10440W
El Cipres	3147N11636W
Escarcega	1837N09043W
Federal District	1915N09910W
Guamuchil	2527N10806W
Heriberto Jara International Airport	1908N09611W
Juarez	3144N10629W
Juchitan	1626N09591W
La Paz	2407N11019W
Matamoros	1515N09245W
Mazatlan	2312N10624W
Merida	2058N08936W
Mexicali	3240N11529W
Mexico City	1924N09909W
Monclova	2654N10125W
Monterrey	1605N09323W
Netzahualcoyotl	1742N09127W
Nogales	1849N09710W
Nuevo Laredo	2730N09913W
Oaxaca	1703N09643W
Pie de la Cuesta	1654N09959W
Popola	2044N08814W
Poza Rica de Hidalgo	2033N09727W
Puebla	2526N10118W
Puerto Cortes	2429N11155W
Puerto Penasco	3124N11335W
Queretaro	2036N10024W

List of Place Names, continued (U)
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Place Name	Geographic Coordinate
Quintana Roo	1940N08830W
Rincon de Romos.	2214N10218W
Saltillo	2525N10100W
San Cristobal de las Casas	1645N09238W
San Juan Teotihuacan	1941N09852W
San Luis Potosi	2208N10058W
Santa Lucia	1945N09050W
Tabasco	1800N09240W
Tampico	2115N10038W
Tapachula	1454N09217W
Tenochtitlan (Mexico City)	1924N09909W
Texcoco	2659N10423W
Tijuana	3232N11701W
Tlalpan	1917N09910W
Toluca	1916N09939W
Tuxpan	1821N09929W
Tuxtla Gutierrez	1645N09306W
Veracruz	1920N09640W
Villahermosa	1758N09256W
Yucatan	2050N08900W
Zapopan	2045N10327W

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(U) Area of Interest Map

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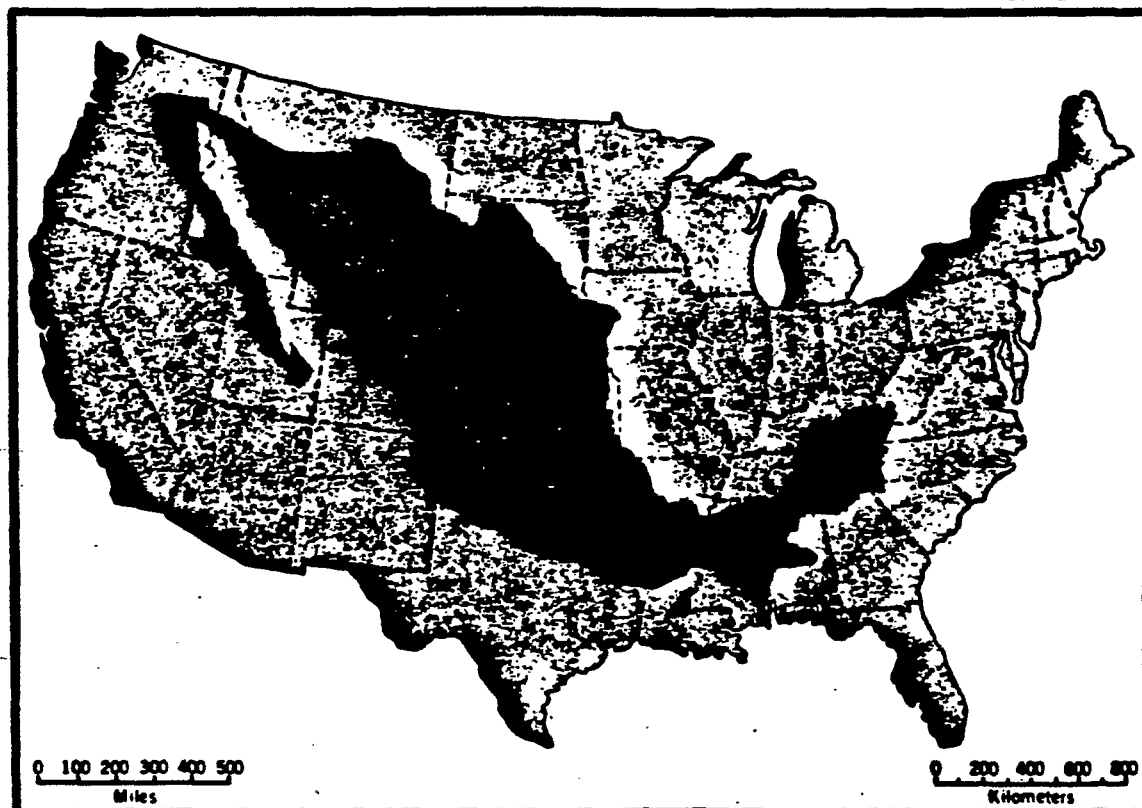
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(U) National Flag

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(U) Land Area Comparison Map

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Chapter 1: Armed Forces Overview (U)

1-1. (U) Mission and Doctrine of the Armed Forces

(U)
a. (CONF) The Armed Forces of Mexico are tasked to protect the President and the government, provide territorial defense, assist in maintaining internal security, participate in civic actions and disaster relief, and cooperate with the Mexican Attorney General in antidrug operations.

(U)
b. (CONF) A Mexican military defense against an equal-size military force with modern weapons is not possible. Under the protection of the United States (US), and with weaker militaries to the south, Mexico has historically enjoyed the benefits of a de facto military alliance without obligations. As a result, the Mexican Armed Forces have organized and equipped primarily for internal defense. The mission of the armed forces includes the security and support of the administration, control against civil unrest, and suppression of drug trafficking.

(U)
c. (CONF) Mexico continues to remain remarkably free of immediate security concerns from within or beyond its borders. The lack of short-

term threats is particularly unique given Mexico's proximity to the sustained instability in Central America and its own significant economic difficulties. However, domestic instability could increase dramatically if the economy fails to improve despite the government's current civic and military modernization efforts.

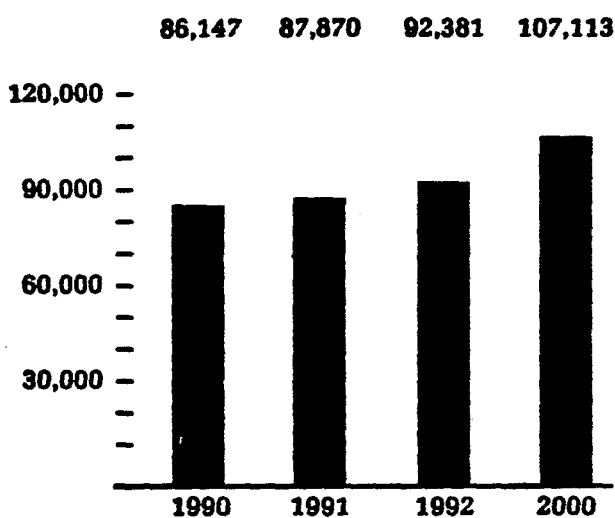
1-2. (U) Military Manpower and Mobilization

a. (U) As of July 1992, there were 23 million males between the ages of 15 and 49; 16.9 million are fit for military service and 1.1 million reach the military age of 18 years annually. No figures are currently available for women. See tables 1-1 and 1-2 for population information by country and service.

(U)
b. (CONF) The number of women in the military service has grown. Although the Mexican Organic Law states that women have the same rights and duties as men in the Mexican Armed Forces, they are not permitted to fill combat positions nor are they eligible for admission to the military academy

(Heroico Colegio Militar). Women who enlist in the army receive the same basic training as men, including weapon handling and attendance at service schools in the fields of administration, medical care, communications, and physical education. Women receive the same benefits as men and they are eligible for 3 months maternity leave. Women in the Mexican military serve primarily in support roles.

Table 1-1. (U) Population of Mexico (in thousands)



* Population forecasts past 1991 are estimated and based upon The World Fact Book 1992, pgs. 225 and 227. Military is <0.2 percent of population.

* Population Doubling Time: 35 years

* Population Density: 110 inhabitants/sq mile

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(U) By law, mobilization can be authorized by the president and only under the following circumstances: international war, internal disorder, and maneuvers. When recalled, reservists join their respective branches for active duty service and they are subject to all military laws and regulations. Upon activation for maneuvers or emergencies, cadres of active duty officers and NCOs are assigned to mobilized units.

d. (U) Actual mobilization plans are unknown. Mobilization exercises at the Superior War School suggest that Mexico plans to mobilize 60 percent of the approximately 18 million eligible persons between the ages of 18 and 50.

Table 1-2. (U) List of Personnel by Service

Status	Service	Number
Active Duty	Army	130,000
	Navy	29,000
	Air Force	8,000
	Marines	8,000
Volunteer	Paramilitary	14,000
Active Reserve	Army	National Military Service; 90,000 trained annually (picked by lottery from the 18 million inactive reserve candidates)
	Navy	No organized reserve; sends its personnel to train with the Marines—Navy and Marines train 5,000 annually.
	Air Force	No organized reserve. Civilian aviation assets can be used in time of national crisis.

(U) Inactive Reserve All Services An estimated 18 million* fit males between the ages of 18 and 50 can be mobilized for duty.

* Mobilization figure of 18 million is an estimate based upon Ground Forces Intelligence Study—Mexico, DIA, October 1991, pg. 28 and an update of the figure cited in paragraph 1-2(a). For additional information on reserves, see chapter 2, 2-5, and chapter 4, 4-5.

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1-3. (U) Order of Battle

a. ^(u)~~(C)~~ Article 89 of the 1917 Constitution places the military under the control of the president. As Commander-In-Chief, the president exercises full civilian control through his appointment of the Secretary of National Defense (SDN) and the Secretary of the Navy (see figure 1-1). The president also selects and appoints other key military officers including the Chief of the National Defense Staff, the Air Force Commander, and military region and military zone commanders. For the political nature of military appointments, see chapter 2, 2-2.

b. ^(u)~~(C/NF)~~ The National Defense General Staff is located in the National Defense Headquarters (NDH). The staff is an advisory and planning body, headed by Chief of Staff MG Enrique T. *Salgado Cordero*, who is subordinate to the Secretary of Defense. The Chief of Staff controls the ten military regions. These regions administer the 36 military zones. For a detailed coverage of the National Defense Staff and additional command and control, see chapter 2, 2-2(b) and chapter 3, 3-7, for information on C².

c. (U) Service Strengths. See table 1-2 for personnel strengths of each service.

d. (U) Major Equipment and Weapons Systems. See appendix A for types and quantities of major equipment and weapons systems.

e. (U) Force Disposition

^(u)
(1) ~~(S/NF)~~ The primary concentration of combat and service support units is in and around Mexico City to ensure that the army provides rapid internal support to the administration and to ensure that units needed elsewhere can deploy quickly. Ground transportation assets, capable of redeployment if necessary, are sufficiently available within the vicinity of Mexico City (see figures 1-2 through 1-6 at the end of this chapter). For information on Air Force dispositions, see chapter

3, figure 3-11; for information on Navy and Marine dispositions, see chapter 4.

^(u)
(2) ~~(S/NF)~~ The second most important strategic area for the deployment of army units is southern Mexico. This is an area in which a large Guatemalan refugee presence is viewed as a potential threat to internal security.

f. (U) Armed Forces Capability

^(u)
(1) ~~(C)~~ Although disciplined, the armed forces of Mexico are undertrained and antiquated. Modernization and reorganization programs are currently underway to alleviate these deficiencies, but progress will be slow because the Mexican Government has traditionally kept its armed forces organizationally divided, rendering them too weak to pose a political challenge. In addition, small yearly budgets prevent the military from growing unnecessarily large. For further information on the armed forces capability and defense spending, see chapter 2, 2-7.

^(u)
(2) ~~(C)~~ Joint military operations between Mexican military services are rare. For more information on this subject, see chapter 2, 2-5(b).

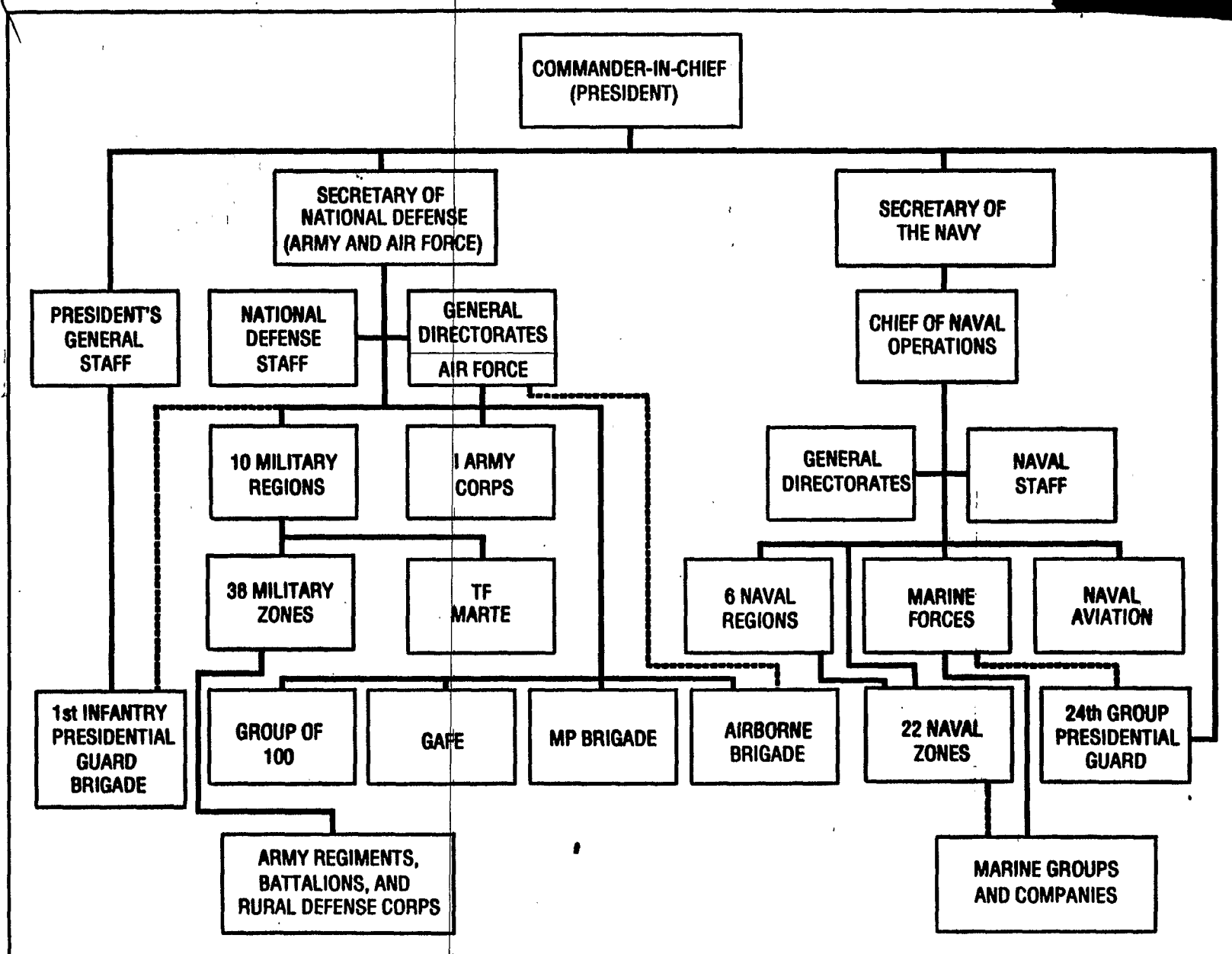
1-4. (U) Role of the Armed Forces in Government

^(u)
~~(S/NF)~~ The armed forces traditionally have had little impact on the civilian decision-making process; this is unlikely to change. However, they do participate in government. As Cabinet members, the Secretaries of National Defense and the Navy have regular access to the president and advise him on security-related issues. Individuals within the armed forces, in temporarily detached status, may stand for elected offices, such as federal deputy, senator, or governor. If stability in Mexico decreases significantly or an external threat arises, consultation with the military in the policy process most likely would increase. The military is unlikely to intervene in the political process unless a total government collapse is imminent.

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Figure 1-1. (U) Organization of the Mexican Armed Forces

1-5. (U) Civil Military Relations

(u)
a. (C) General. The historical and cultural legacy of the Mexican Army is a source of enormous pride. Today, the army views itself as the savior of the revolution and as a noninterfering guardian of the constitutional government. In addition to national security missions, the military performs civic action projects, which directly assist an appreciative civilian population.

(u)
b. (S/NF) Civic Projects. Military civic action projects are very big programs for the armed forces of Mexico. Between 9 and 14 September 1991, the Mexican Army participated in the Second Annual National Solidarity Week of nationwide civic action programs. In accordance with the presidential initiative and in the form of civic actions, the Secretary of Defense placed military personnel and material resources at the disposal of the underprivileged. This included medical and dental care, distribution of medical supplies, restoration of thousands of buildings and homes, and many other projects. Training recruits in skills that can be used upon their return to the private sector is also considered an important military program.

(u)
c. (S/NF) Civilian Nationalism. Mexican civilians display an elevated sense of nationalism; they show a visible pride in being Mexican. However, there does exist a sense of discontent among the general population concerning national issues. Economic stagnation and a sharp population growth have combined, sending young workers into the labor force without adequate employment possibilities. Leaving the country to work in the US has been a traditional safety valve, but recent tightening of US immigration policy has constricted this outlet. In addition, crime, corruption, and living standards, which are slow to improve, prevent a higher confidence level among civilians toward the government.

(u)
d. (S/NF) Recruitment and Retention. The allure of steady and potentially rewarding employment is the leading reason why young Mexicans enter the armed forces. In addition, the possession of an identification card—only obtainable through military service—is highly desirable for future

employment and international travel. The obligatory draft is the second reason for enlistment. The draft is used to staff vacant positions in the military and to create rolls of eligible personnel for reserve and mobilization purposes.

(u)
(1) (S/NF) Retention of personnel among the Mexican Armed Forces remains a problem. To address this problem, the military is offering hazardous duty pay to personnel who volunteer for units located in high risk areas. Such areas include locations near known insurgent bases or drug producing zones. Pay for hazardous duty also includes navy and air force personnel volunteers who intercept drugtraffickers. Contracts, which state a required minimal service time, are often used to guarantee the continued enlistment of particularly valuable personnel, such as pilots.

(2) (C) 

The majority of desertions are by army personnel who have spent much time away from their assigned garrison. As a general rule, the army does not try to apprehend a deserter unless he has committed a crime or has left his unit with military gear. After 1 year, the army drops the deserter from its rolls; however, the deserter then forfeits the right to obtain an identity card or a passport. The impact of defections on overall unit readiness and morale is said to be minimal as military units are constantly recruiting and covering vacancies.

(u)
(3) (C) For the education level of officers and NCOs, the state of military training, and additional information, see chapter 2, 2-6.

e. (U) Unit Pride

(1) (S/NF) The Presidential Guard Brigade and the Airborne Brigade are considered the best trained and equipped units in the Mexican military. The high reputation of these units attracts

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volunteers, thus, giving them esprit de corps and allegiance. Units such as the Group of 100, Airmobile Special Forces Group, Presidential Guard Marine Group, Marine Airborne Company, and the Military Police Brigade foster high levels of military pride.

(u)
(2) (S/NF) Historically, the units that have exhibited the lowest morale are those that have personnel stationed for long periods of time away from their home garrison. For additional information on individual units, see chapter 3.

f. (U) Weapon Sophistication

(u)
(1) (S/NF) Although Mexico is economically well-developed by Third World standards, it retains much outdated and heterogeneous military equipment. Commanders from all services frequently complain of spare-part shortages, under-qualified maintenance technicians, and lack of quality equipment.

(u)
(2) (S/NF) Based on the poor condition of current Mexican weapons and equipment, it can be concluded that competent employment of any newly acquired sophisticated equipment would be highly unlikely—the Mexican military does not have a budget of sufficient size or adequate training and logistical support structures required. Although improving, this problem is not expected to be remedied in the near future.

1-6. (U) Recent Operational Experience


(u)
a. (S/NF) The most significant military activity in recent years has taken place in the coun-

terdrug arena. The army was called upon to suppress election-related civil unrest in Michoacan State in April 1990. Elements of the Airborne Brigade have provided security for some major law enforcement actions, including the arrests of a corrupt union leader and a major drugtrafficking kingpin.

(u)
b. (C) The Mexican National Defense Headquarters reported that during the period of 1 January through 31 March 1992, Mexican Army and Air Force units destroyed 23,153 marijuana fields and 47,712 poppy fields, involving 16 armed confrontations.

c. (C/NF) The Mexican Navy reported on 3 January 1992 that of 571 counterdrug missions conducted in 1991, 166 were by the surface navy, 233 by naval air, and 172 by ground marine forces.

d. (S/NF) Although the Mexican military has shown an ability to conduct successful counterdrug operations, the efforts have not been enough to significantly restrict or stop the transshipment of drugs through Mexico.



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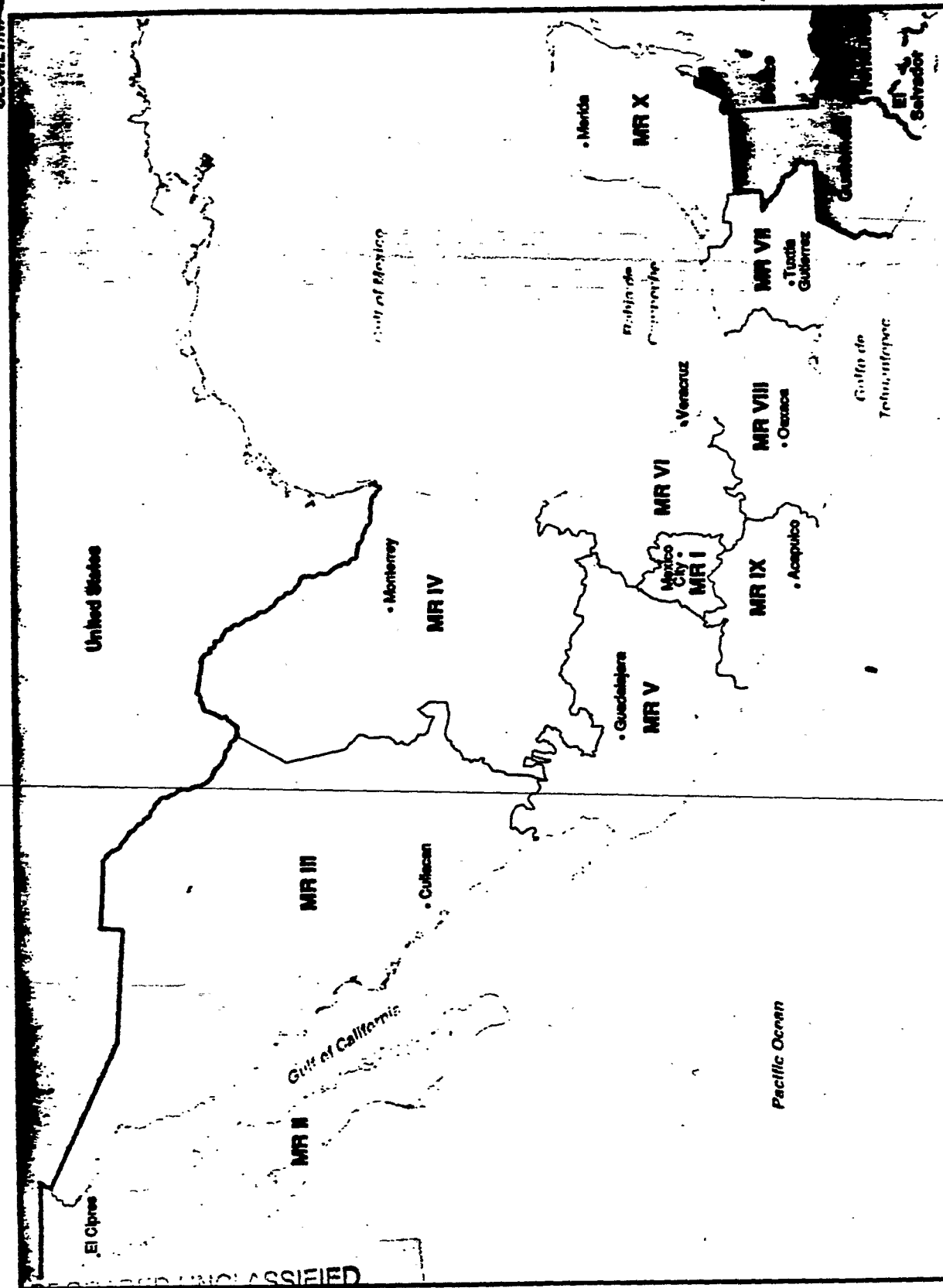


Figure 1-2. (U) Army Disposition, Military Regions and Headquarters

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Chapter 2: Ground Forces (U)

2-1. (U) Mission

a. (U) Mission Description

(1) ^(U)~~(C)~~ The Mexican Ground Forces are assigned five general missions. These missions are: to assist the civilian population in times of need; to defend the integrity, independence, and sovereignty of the nation; to guarantee internal security; to perform social and civic actions that contribute to national progress; and to provide assistance for maintenance of order and reconstruction following national disasters.

(2) ^(U)~~(C)~~ The Mexican military's current priority is the suppression of drugtrafficking activities. This effort falls under the broader mission of providing for internal security.

b. (U) Mission Analysis

(1) (U) The government's program for internal security and stability is currently being met by the Army, the largest of the Mexican military services.

(2) ^(U)~~(C)~~ Examples of the military meeting its civic duties include: assistance after Hurricane Gilbert in September 1988; Special Police (antiterrorist) at the World Soccer Cup Tournament in May 1986; public aid after the October 1985 Mexico City earthquake; assistance to rescuers after a train derailment in Tehuacan, November 1991; and assistance after the gas explosion in Guadalajara in April 1992. In the latter, the army implemented a portion of the DN-III Plan (aid to the civilian population) within hours of the explosion. Initially, there were approximately 3,500 military personnel mobilized in Guadalajara to aid in the rescue of trapped and injured personnel. Current and continued assistance is provided for homeless families, security, and area cleanup.

2-2. (U) Composition

a. (U) National Level

(1) ^(U)~~(C)~~ The President of Mexico is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. The Secretary of National Defense, traditionally an army officer, commands the army, air force and the Rural Defense Corps (see chapter 1, figure 1-2).

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The Secretary of the Navy and the SDN both have Cabinet status and are personally selected by the president. Personal relationships are extremely important in the higher echelons of military commands. Senior military officers and politicians are most comfortable with officers who have served under them and who have demonstrated unquestionable loyalty. The president does not always select the best qualified officers for these positions—he only chooses those who he feels will support his policies.

(U) (C) The separation of power between the two secretaries (Army and Navy) makes the Mexican Armed Forces unique when compared with those of neighboring Central American countries. The influence of the Mexican Secretary of National Defense and the Secretary of Navy is proportionate to the size of their respective services. This command structure serves as a means of controlling the political power of the two secretaries and prevents either from becoming powerful enough to dominate the military or to threaten the government. Mexico's highly centralized political system concentrates decisionmaking at the presidential level. The president usually makes the final decision on defense matters.

(U) (C) Rivalry between the service secretaries tends to weaken unity and coordination. Unlike the United States, Mexico has no military joint chiefs of staff; instead, each service has its own general staff. However, the Mexican military is moving gradually toward joint planning and, as the need arises, ad hoc committees will be created. Close military and civilian coordination and planning are being encouraged to enhance intelligence collection in the south. Mexico's leadership has indicated a desire to develop a national security strategy.

(U) (C) The Secretary of National Defense also has direct operational control over the following army units: 2d, 3d, and 4th Infantry Brigades, Military Police Brigade, the Group of 100, the Special Forces Airmobile Group, three armored brigades, the 7th and 3d Armored Reconnaissance Regiments, the Airborne Brigade, and each of the

36 military zones. All of these units, except for the 3d Armored Reconnaissance Regiment and the units for 35 of the 36 military zones, are located in Mexico City. The armed forces commanders report directly to the Secretary of National Defense and serve in an administrative and advisory role. Refer to chapter 3, 3-7, for a detailed discussion on C³.

b. (U) Army

(U) (C) The National Defense Staff, headed by Chief-of-Staff Major General Enrique Tomas Salgado Cordero, is an advisory and planning body directly subordinate to the SDN. It has the responsibility for staff supervision over all army activities. The chief-of-staff delegates staff responsibilities to two deputy chiefs-of-staff. The deputy chief-of-staff for operations is responsible for managing five of the more important staff sections: S-2 (intelligence), S-3 (operations), S-5 (strategic plans), S-9 (doctrine), and S-10 (special operations and counterdrugs). The deputy chief-of-staff for administration oversees the activity of S-1 (personnel), S-4 (logistics), S-6 (programs and budget), S-7 (information systems), and S-8 (legal and judicial).

(U) (C/NF) Also directly subordinate to the SDN are at least 32 general directorates and other administrative elements (see table 2-1). A new directorate, added as late as February 1992, was created by the NDH to coordinate all aerial reconnaissance and southeastern air force radar networks. The NDH anticipates an expanded counterdrugs role for the air force.

(U) (C/NF) The Commander of the Air Force LTG Hector Ahuja Fuster is also one of the subordinate directorates. Although the Air Force has some organizational autonomy as a separate service, its administrative dependence on the National Defense Staff and other elements of the National Defense Secretariat makes it, in fact, little more than an adjunct of the army. As a result of this relationship, joint army and air force activities are standard procedure. However, joint operations of the army and navy, which has its own aviation assets, remain minimal despite recent improvements.

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Table 2-1. (U) Secretariat of National Defense General Directorates and Departments

Office Symbol	Title and Personnel	Office Symbol	Title and Personnel
DN 1	National Defense Staff (Chief) MG Enrique Tomas Salgado Cordero	DN 18	MG Ruben Dario Castillo Ferrera Department of Archives and Historical Records
DN 2	Undersecretary of National Defense LTG Alfredo Ochoa Toledo	DN 19	MG Eulalio Fonseca Orozco Commander of the Air Force
DN 3	Executive Officer (Official Mayor) LTG Raul Juarez Carreno	DN 20	LTG Hector Vincente Ahuja Fuster Staff Judge Advocate (Military Tribunal)
DN 4	Inspector General of the Army and Air Force LTG Adrian de Jesus Ruiz Esquivel	DN 21	MG Antonio Lopez Portillo Leal Director General of the Military Penal System
DN 5	Director General of Infantry LTG Vicente Herrera Brambila	DN 22	LTG Maurilio R. Falcon Flores Chief of the Military Defense Corps
DN 6	Director General of Cavalry LTG Jaime Jimenez Munoz	DN 23	BG Manuel Garcia Gronad Director General of Military Transportation
DN 7	Director General of Artillery BG Raul Orozco Sanchez	DN 24	LTG Francisco Quiroz Hermosillo Director General of War Materials
DN 8	Director General of Engineers MG Genaro Ambia Martinez	DN 25	BG Jorge Rueda Bravo Director General of Physical Education and Sports
DN 9	Director General of Communications BG Ricardo Alejandr Bolanos Cacho y Gonzalez	DN 26	MG Juan Jose Ballesteros Beltran Department of National Military Service
DN 10	Director General of Administration and Logistics BG Rafael Paz del Campo	DN 27	MG Francisco Soto Solis Department of Firearms and Explosives Control
DN 11	Director General of Medical Services MG (DR) Leonardo Carlos Ruiz Perez	DN 28	MG Jaime Palacios Guerrero Department of Military Industry
DN 12	Director General of Military Justice MG Sergio Ramirez Michel	DN 29	LTG Enrique Cervantes Aguirre Not seen*
DN 13	Director General of Personnel LTG Carlos Duarte Sacramento	DN 30	Not identified
DN 14	Director General of Military Education and the Army and Air Force University LTG Vinicio Santoyo Feria	DN 31	Dean of the Air Force and Army University MG Enrique Perez Casas
DN 15	Director General of Rural Defense MG Roberto Badillo Martinez	DN 32	Director General of Armored Units BG Jesus Alvarez Perez
DN 16	Department of Cartography MG Tomas Ruben Sanchez Castillo		
DN 17	Director General of Military Social Security		

* New directorate. Director of Air Operations Coordination—BG Jose Sanchez Sandoval. BG Sanchez accepted office effective 16 February 1992.

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c. (U) Major Commands and Headquarters

(1) (U) General. The army has 36 military zones and 10 military regions. Each has its own command. Most of the military zones were established in 1924 and most roughly follow state boundaries. The 36th Military Zone was created in 1963 in southern Mexico to protect the oil fields and production facilities and to handle the settlement of refugees from Guatemala and other Central America countries.

(2) (U) Military Regions. Military regions are further subdivided into subordinate military zones. Military region commanders, usually selected on the basis of seniority from among the military zone commanders, have zones assigned to them for administration.

(3) (U) Military Zones. The Federal District is located in Military Zone #1. In most cases, the headquarters for each zone is in the state capital. Zone commanders are usually two-star generals appointed by the Secretary of Defense on the Secretary of Defense's recommendation.

d. (U) Army Commands

(a) (U) Garrison Commands. There are 10 garrison commands, mainly in Mexico's northern border region. They were established during the mid-19th century as border outposts. Currently, they appear to function as administrative outposts to assist in border-related issues (see table 2-3). These posts are normally commanded by brigadier generals.

(b) (S/NF)

2-3. (U) Disposition

(a) (S/NF) Over the past 10 years, the Mexican Secretaries of National Defense and the Navy have significantly increased military capability, particularly

in southeastern Mexico. The buildup is part of an overall military expansion and modernization program and is also in response to perceived Mexican security threats along the borders with Guatemala and Belize. The threats include Guatemalan insurgent activity, Guatemalan Army incursions, trafficking in arms and drugs, and the threats to oil-producing facilities. The armed forces have nearly doubled the number of ground combat units and aircraft assigned to southeastern Mexico while reorganizing commands, constructing new facilities, and adding new capabilities such as a radar system and special operations units.

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(b) (U) A large percentage of Mexico's best equipped and trained combat units are based in the central valley of Mexico to support the administration. In addition, an even higher percentage of support units—all of the army's nine combat brigades including its Engineer Service Brigade—are in and around Mexico City. The remaining forces are stationed throughout Mexico, with their distribution showing no pattern of concentration toward peripheral or border areas.

c. (S/NF)

d. (S/NF)

c. (U) Major Commands and Headquarters

(U)
(1) (C) General. The army has 36 military zones and 10 military regions; each has its own command. Most of the military zones were established in 1924 and most roughly follow state boundaries. The 36th Military Zone was created in 1983 in southern Mexico to protect the oil fields and production facilities and to handle the settlement of refugees from Guatemala and other Central America countries.

(U)
(2) (C) Military Regions. Military regions are further subdivided into subordinate military zones. Military region commanders, usually selected on the basis of seniority from among the military zone commanders, have zones assigned to them for administration. Military regions and their subordinate zones are depicted in table 2-2.

(U)
(3) (C) Military Zones. The Federal District is located in Military Zone #1. In most cases, the headquarters for each zone is in the state capital. Zone commanders are usually two-star generals, appointed by the President on the Secretary of Defense's recommendation.

(4) (U) Army Commands

(a) (U) Garrison Commands. There are 16 garrison commands, mainly in Mexico's northern border region. They were established during the mid-19th century as border outposts. Currently, they appear to function as administrative outposts to assist in border-related issues (see table 2-3). These posts are normally commanded by brigadier generals.

(U)
(b) (S/NF) For a listing of individual army units and their command locations, see table 2-4.

2-3. (U) Disposition

a. (C/NF) Over the past 12 years, the Mexican Secretariats of National Defense and the Navy have significantly increased military capability, particu-

larly in southeastern Mexico. The buildup is part of an overall military expansion and modernization program and is also in response to perceived Mexican security threats along the borders with Guatemala and Belize.

(U)
b. (C) A large percentage of Mexico's best equipped and trained combat units are based in the central valley of Mexico to support the administration. In addition, an even higher percentage of support units—all of the army's nine combat brigades, including its Engineer Service Brigade—are in and around Mexico City. The remaining forces are stationed throughout Mexico, with their distribution showing no pattern of concentration toward peripheral or border areas (see chapter 1, figure 1-2).

c. (S/NF) Mexico has two military regions that border Guatemala: Military Region VII and Military Region X.

d. (S/NF) In the southeast, the Mexican military is deployed in depth

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Table 2-2. (U) Major Army Commands and Headquarters

Region	Headquarters/ Commander	Military Zones	Headquarters/ Commander
1	Mexico, D.F. LTG Armando M. Ortiz Salgado	1	Mexico, D.F. LTG Armando Ortiz Salgado
		17	Queretaro, Queretaro MG Mario Lopez Gutierrez
		22	Toluca, D.F. MG Mario Ayon Rodriguez
		24	Cuernavaca, Morelos MG Victor Lara Perea
2	El Cipres, Baja California Norte LTG Manuel Lomeli Gamboa	2	El Cipres, Baja California Norte LTG Manuel Lomeli Gamboa
		3	La Paz, Baja California Sur MG Jesus Esquinca Gurrusquieta
3	Culiacan, Sinaloa LTG Jose Angel Garcia Elizalde	4	Hermosillo, Sonora MG Tito Valencia Ortiz
		5	Chihuahua, Chihuahua MG Luis Montiel Lopez
		9	Culiacan, Sinaloa LTG Jose A. Garcia Elizalde
		10	Durango, Durango MG Agustin Vallejo Alvarez
		6	Saltillo, Coahuila MG Enrique Andrade Sanchez
4	Monterrey, Nuevo Leon LTG Jamie Contreras Guerrero	7	Monterrey, Nuevo Leon LTG Jamie Contreras Guerrero
		8	Tancol, Tamaulipas MG Alfredo Hernandez Pimentel
		11	Guadalupe, Zacatecas BG Luis Humberto Lopez Portillo Leal
5	Guadalajara, Jalisco LTG Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo	12	San Luis Potosi, San Luis Potosi MG Jorge Gamboa Solis
		13	Tepic, Nayarit MG Juan Lopez Ortiz
		14	Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes MG Jorge Isaac Velazquez Fuentes
		15	Guadalajara, Jalisco LTG Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo
		16	Irapuato, Guerrero MG Ricardo Andriano Morales
		20	Colima, Colima MG Mario Joaquim Vega Lopez
		21	Morelia, Michoacan MG Edmundo Elipidio Leyua Galindo

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Table 2-2. (U) Major Army Commands and Headquarters, continued

Region	Headquarters/ Commander	Military Zones	Headquarters/ Commander
6	La Boticaria, Veracruz LTG Gregorio Guerrero Caudillo	18	Pachuca, Hidalgo BG Jorge Lugo Cital
		19	Tuxpan, Veracruz MG Rolando Gutierrez Lopez
		23	Panotla, Tlaxcala MG Victor Luis Rerueltas Olvera
		25	Puebla, Puebla MG Jose Gomez Salazar
		26	La Boticaria, Veracruz LTG Gregorio Guerrero Caudillo
7	Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas LTG Miguel A. Godinez Bravo	30	Villahermosa, Tabasco MG Eduardo de la Pena Medina
		31	San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas MG Othon Calderon Carrillo
		36	Tapachula, Chiapas MG Ricardo Maldonado Baca
			Oaxaca, Oaxaca LTG Mauricio Roberto Falcon Flores
8	Oaxaca, Oaxaca LTG Mauricio Roberto Falcon Flores	28	Minatitlan, Veracruz MG Ricardo Heredia Diaz
		29	
9	Acapulco, Guerrero MG Juan H. Salinas Altes	27	Acapulco, Guerrero MG Juan H. Salinas Altes
		35	Chilpancingo, Guerrero MG Nicabardo D. Velazquez Carmona
			Merida, Yucatan LTG Edmar Euroza Delgado
10	Merida, Yucatan LTG Edmar Euroza Delgado	32	
		33	Campeche, Campeche MG Juan M. Aguilar Ortiz
		34	Chetumal, Quintana Roo MG Manuel F. Badillo Trueba*

* Former commander. No information on current commander.

(U) e. [REDACTED] The Rural Defense Infantry Corps comprise part-time soldiers who assist the Regular Army by providing guides for patrols and intelligence on border activity. The total number of soldiers normally patrolling the border is probably about 500.

(U) f. [REDACTED] For other force dispositions, see chapter 3, 3-5, chapter 3, 3-6, and chapter 4. For a

Table 2-3. (U) Garrison Commands

City	State
Tijuana	Baja California Norte
Mexicali	Baja California Norte
Tecate	Baja California Norte
San Luis Rio Colorado	Sonora
Agua Prieta	Sonora
Nogales	Sonora
Ciudad Juarez	Chihuahua
Ojinaga	Chihuahua
Ciudad Acuna	Coahuila
Piedras Negras	Coahuila
Nuevo Laredo	Tamaulipas
Matamoros	Tamaulipas
Reynosa	Tamaulipas
Mazatlan	Sinaloa
Manzanillo	Colima
Salina Cruz	Oaxaca

graphic representation of Mexican ground force disposition, refer to the order of battle disposition map in chapter 1, figure 1-2.

2-4. (U) Personnel Strength

a. (U) For army officer and noncommissioned officer strength, refer to table 2-5. For a listing of personnel by service, refer to chapter 1, table 1-2.

b. (U) For listing of army ground unit strengths by echelon and branch of service, see chapter 3, 3-1(b). For information on the strength of the air force, see chapter 3, 3-5; for navy and marines, see chapter 4.

2-5. (U) Strategy, Operational Art, and Doctrine

(U) The immediate years following WWII saw an increase in US influence on the Mexican Army. During the final year of the Avila Camacho administration (1940-1946), government leaders

restructured the Mexican military organization using the US Armed Forces as a model. US Army field manuals were incorporated into the military training program.

(U) Major acquisitions of military hardware made during the Camacho administration were the last to be obtained before the modernization program of the late 1970s. In recent years, nationalism and a noninterventionist, nonaligned foreign policy have led to substantial diversification of sources for military arms procurement. Although major equipment purchases have been made recently from others, primarily European nations, only the United States has had significant impact on the doctrine and organization of the Mexican Armed Forces. For information on Mexican national and strategic-level plans, see paragraphs 2-5(b) and 2-7.

(1) (U) Under threat of a military invasion or large-scale riot, the Mexican Government would signal its military to meet the challenge. All available military and reserves would be used to ensure the safety of the government. In support of this, the majority of Mexican military units have been stationed in and around Mexico City. For information on mission and doctrine of the Mexican military, refer to chapter 1, 1-1.

(2) (U) Joint Military Operations

(a) (U) Historically, joint military operations have been infrequent. The lack of any joint national defense and navy organization has resulted in minimal cooperation between the services. In addition, there are many shortcomings in the army's coordination of counterdrugs operations with the navy and the Attorney General's Office. An admitted problem is the inability of the Salinas administration to promote interservice cooperation in support of the national counterdrug mission.

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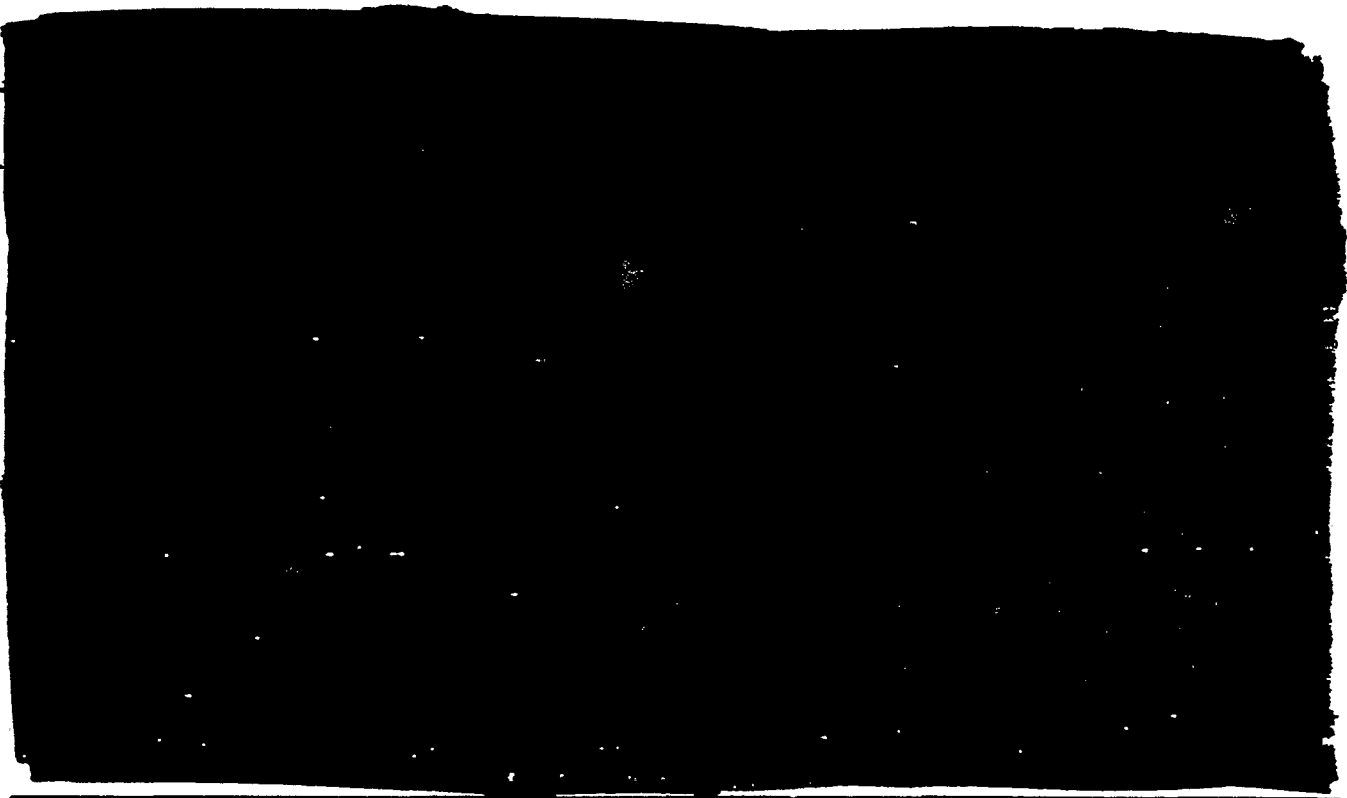
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Table 2-4. (U) Individual Army Unit and Command Locations, continued

UNIT NAME	BE NUMBER	CAT	FAC NAME
			

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Table 2-5. (U) Army Authorized Positions by Rank, 1986

Rank	Authorized
General officers	300
Field-grade officers	2,744
Company-grade officers	11,427
Total	14,471
Noncommissioned officers	42,230
Privates	53,968
Total	96,207
Total Personnel	110,678

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(U)

(b) (C) National plans can involve from 20 to 30 thousand troops in country-wide operations. National plans will also have the majority of the helicopters available for such operations.



(c) (C) Task Force Marte is the army's premiere counterdrug unit. The task force receives priority support from the SDN. Units are selected from outside the region and serve for only 4 months to reduce the risk of corruption and

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improve operational security. Task Force Marte conducts continuous missions in the three-state region of Sonora, Chihuahua, and Sinaloa.]

2-6. (U) Training and Military Education

(u)
a. (C/NF) General. According to the Organic Law, military education establishments are responsible for professional military education. The military education system has four major areas: schools for education of enlisted personnel, officer formation schools, specialized and technical training schools, and higher command and staff schools. Recently, Secretary of National Defense Riviello strongly expressed a need to increase the quality of military training. Exact details of this upgrading are not available at this time. However, emphasis on training from the SDN is a critical first step for future funding and implementation of new initiatives.

b. (U) Enlisted

(1) (U) Individual Basic Training Center

(u)
(a) (C/NF) The 1st Military Region maintains a large individual basic training center (*Centro de Adiestramiento Basico Individual—CABI*) capable of training 900 trainees at one time. It is located at Temamatla, Mexico. Each of the army's nine other military regions maintains a similar CABI. While they all provide essentially the same training, local modifications are made for regional terrain, climate, and ethnicity.

(u)
(b) (C/NF) The CABI serves as the transition point between civilian and military life. During the 8-week training session, recruits train from 0500-2100 hours every day. Overnight bivouacs are conducted every week. Among the subjects taught are close-order drill, military law, first aid, ethics, physical conditioning, weapon familiarization, marksmanship, camouflage, grenade qualification, obstacle courses, and radio communication techniques. The SDN recently has mandated an increased weapons marksmanship training. No recruit graduates unless he can qualify with the MX/FRG 7.62mm G-3 rifle.

(u)
(c) (C/NF) Since the CABI focuses on combat skills, recruits who perform poorly are sent into administrative or clerical fields.

(2) (C/NF) Additional enlisted training occurs at the battalion and regiment level. While this training includes close order drill, marksmanship, and small unit tactics, it also stresses literacy. Field exercises above the battalion level take place annually. Training programs include instruction in counterdrugs, control of civil unrest, and disaster relief.

(3) (U) Military Training Center

(u)
(a) (C/NF) Each military zone is responsible for operating a military training center (MTC). The MTC conducts three types of training: basic course, mid-level training, and special course. The basic course provides new recruits with entry-level training, followed by 1 week of advanced training. The mid-level training is for military personnel who return for specialized training in crew served weapons, reconnaissance training, communications, etc. Special courses include driver training for the high mobility, multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV) and swimming courses. Special courses vary in length from 1 to 9 weeks.

(u)
(b) (C/NF) In addition to supporting the 27th military zone, the MTC in Zacatula, Guerrero, also administers the *Curso de Patrullas de Combate—CUPAC* (Combat Patrolling Course). Because the CUPAC is the only course of that type offered in Mexico, it provides training for units throughout the country. The course focuses on small-unit patrolling techniques, such as advanced patrol base operations, combat and reconnaissance patrols, and operations within a jungle environment. Graduates of the course are known as *Panteras Negras* (Black Panthers).

c. (U) Noncommissioned Officers Academy

(u)
(1) (C/NF) The Mexican Army conducts concurrent 6-month courses for staff sergeants (SS) and sergeants first class (SP). Classes are held at the Escuela Militar de Clases de Las Armas

(EMCA), a 1940s-vintage establishment located in Puebla, Puebla. The academy is commanded by BG Miguel Estrada Martinez. Estrada has a colonel as deputy commander, four lieutenant colonels, and one major for his primary staff. EMCA programs are divided into four phases for each group:

- 4 months of academic training (Map Reading, Military Law, Military Etiquette, Counterdrug Operations, Leadership, Civil Disturbance, Irregular Warfare, Communications, Weapons, Military Instruction, Common Task and Plan DN III Population Assistance)
- 2 weeks of practical exercises in the 1st Army Corps area
- 2 weeks of practical exercises as instructors in the valley of Mexico
- 3 weeks of practical exercises, participating in counternarcotics operations in a high incidence growth area.

(u) (3) (GAF) Personnel from all combat arms are trained at the academy. Each combat arms sergeant is provided specialized training in a specialty skill (infantry tactics, armor tactics, etc.). They all receive some training in all specialties plus training in drill and ceremony. Current participation consists of 83 individuals enrolled in the 10th iteration of the SP course and 624 enrolled in the 18th iteration of the SS course.

(u) (3) (GAF) Reportedly, the school functions very professionally, with only a few visible shortcomings in training (no information on shortcomings). NCO graduates of the program are qualified to carry out responsibilities commensurate with their grade and to train fellow soldiers.

(u) (4) (GAF) The academy is the site for two major construction projects: the Officer Combat Arms School, currently in Mexico City, and the 7th Armor Reconnaissance Regiment of Temematla State, which is expected to relocate within 1 year.

d. (U) Officer

(u) (1) (C) The amount and type of military training are key indicators of a successful career in the Mexican Army. Officer training enhancement continues to be a goal of the modernization program. Improvements include opening new schools and enlarging existing ones to accommodate a growing student body. The national university system has accredited certain programs, making it possible for an officer to earn a bachelor's or master's degree in military science. However, lacking a sufficient amount of modern training equipment and the applicable techniques, the quality of Mexican military education has improved only slightly.

(u) (2) (C) The *Heroico Colegio Militar*, Mexico's military academy, serves as the first tier of the army's professional educational system. It is open to male students with either military or civilian backgrounds. Candidates for admission undergo intelligence, vocational aptitude, and personality testing. Candidates must be Mexican male citizens by birth, single, between 16 and 21 years old, and must have completed secondary education. The academy has a 4-year regular curriculum and a special 1-year curriculum for sergeant officer candidates. Upon graduation, the cadet receives a commission as a second lieutenant in the infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineers, or administration.

(u) (3) (C) At least 3 years after receiving their commissions, officers attend a mandatory 6-month tactical and command course at either the Military School of Infantry, Artillery, Engineers, and Service Training or at the Military School of Cavalry Training. These courses are now a prerequisite for attendance at the Superior War School.

(4) (U) The Superior War School (*Escuela Superior de Guerra*) forms the second tier of the army's professional education system. It offers a 3-year army degree in military tactics, law, geography, and related subjects. The Superior War School roughly is equivalent to the US Army Command and General Staff College. The school also

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offers the equivalent of a 2-year staff college course designed for air force officers, as well as two 6-month courses for lieutenant colonels. The first 6-month course trains nongraduates of the military academy to serve as deputy battalion commanders or commanders of service battalions. The second 6-month course, which teaches joint operations, marks a departure from the old command philosophy, which strictly maintained the autonomy of each of the services. Graduates of the Superior War School receive the degree of Licentiate in Military Administration and the title of General Staff Graduate (*Diplomado de Estado Mayor*), an appellation that commands prestige and, henceforth, is used as part of a graduate's rank. Only graduates of the Superior War School can expect to reach the rank of general.

(u)
(5) (C) Also included in the second tier of military education are specialty schools. These include the Military College of Health Service Graduates, the Military Medical School, the Military School of Dentistry, and the Military Engineering School.

(u)
(6) (C/NF) The third and final tier of the army's professional education is Mexico's National Defense College (*Colegio de Defensa Nacional—CDN*). It was established in 1980 to prepare colonels and flag officers for national security positions. The college's curriculum encompasses national and international studies, as well as national security and defense studies. Each NDC student graduates with a master's degree in military administration for national security and defense. Moreover, the NDC also serves as a think tank for the present administration. The Secretary of National Defense often tasks the NDC to produce papers on political and military subjects. The NDC has begun to admit some civilian government employees as students, similar to the practice followed by the US National Defense University.

(u)
(7) (C) All of these military schools and other specialized institutions (including medical, signal, engineering, air force, law, language, physical education, and instructor schools) were placed under the Army and Air Force University in 1976. The university has administrative responsibility for coordinating instruction and operation of all

schools, lending unity to the military education program.

e. (U) Specialized Training

(u)
(1) (C) Officers and soldiers of units with specialized missions receive appropriate training. The Group of 100 (the army's principle antiterrorist unit) and the GAFE (Special Forces Airmobile Group) train for their special operations. The personnel of the Airborne Brigade receive a grueling 11-week jump school. Units selected for Task Force Marte undergo a month of intensive training for counterdrugs before deploying.

(u)
(2) (C) There is no military intelligence branch; consequently, individuals from other branches attend intelligence training. There is no military intelligence school in Mexico, so officers often train in foreign schools.

(u)
(3) (C/NF) There is no separate military police (MP) branch for the army. Officers assigned to the MP brigade are drawn from the other branches. They undergo a basic MP course, serve an initial assignment in the brigade, and then returned to their basic branches. There is also an advanced MP course for field-grade officers. As a result, the army is able to maintain a cadre of MP-trained officers. Enlisted personnel with prior police experience receive a 15-day block of instruction on basic MP operations. Recruits without prior police experience receive 6 months of MP training prior to being assigned to an operational MP battalion. Three levels of MP training provide for basic, advanced, and specialized subjects such as crowd control, police intelligence, and canine operations. The brigade also trains explosive ordnance demolition and sniper personnel.

(u)
(4) (C/NF) Field exercises above the battalion level are seldom held in the Mexican Army. I Corps generally conducts an annual exercise; however, this appears to be more of a large-scale demonstration than an actual field training exercise. Brigades probably do not operate tactically, but provide units to execute a training plan developed at the corps or the national level. Outside of the Mexico City area, multibattalion exercises are rare. Battalion-level, live-fire exercises regularly are

conducted by all units, including the artillery and armor.

(U)
f. (C/NF) Mexican officers regularly attend military schools in the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, France, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, and Germany. However, the SDN limits the number of officers allowed to attend foreign military schools to preclude undue foreign influence. Mexico also has sent a number of observers and training missions to the former Soviet Union, Cuba, and East European countries but has not established any formal training agreements with these countries.

2-7. (U) Capabilities

(U)
a. (C/NF) General. Because of Mexico's domestic orientation since 1917, the Mexican Army has evolved as a force devoted primarily to internal defense. This has left Mexico unable to successfully defend the national territory against an attack by an offensively trained, modern force of equivalent size. Its conventional capabilities have increased as a result of modernization programs over the last two decades but remain extremely limited because of inferior equipment. The Mexican Army is capable of successfully assisting the police in controlling small-scale civil unrest and conducting limited (because of a lack of real-time intelligence and logistical support) counter-insurgency and counterdrug operations.

b. (U) Conflict Intensity Capability

(1) (U) General. Other than the United States, Mexico has no immediate neighbors who maintain a modern military. As a result, any foreign military conflict with Mexico is expected to occur along its southern border, to be small-scale, and to be conventional in nature. However, in the following paragraphs, Mexico's conventional military will be analyzed separately against an imaginary like-size enemy force possessing either conventional or modern weapons. Comparisons are made against commonly accepted US definitions of conflict intensity to determine combat success capability.

(2) (U) High Intensity Conflict

(a) (U) Definition. High intensity conflict is war between two or more countries and their respective allies in which the belligerents employ the most modern technology and all resources in intelligence, mobility, firepower, command, control, communications, and service support.

(U)
(b) (S/NF) Mexico is incapable of successfully executing high intensity combat operations. The equipment quality, command and control, and logistical level of support are extremely inadequate.

(3) (U) Mid Intensity Conflict

(a) (U) Definition. Mid intensity conflict is the same as high intensity conflict, except that limited geographic areas and/or limited destructive power policies might be involved.

(U)
(b) (C/NF) The equipment quality, command and control, and logistical networks are inadequate to support even specific-area missions effectively.

(4) (U) Low Intensity Conflict (Type A)

(a) (U) Definition. Low intensity conflict, type A, internal defense and development assistance operations involve actions by combat forces to establish, regain, or maintain control of specific land areas threatened by guerrilla warfare, revolution, subversion, or other tactics aimed at internal seizure of power.

(b) (C/NF) The leading threat to internal security is an expanding regional drug industry and drug transshipments through Mexico to the United States. Other major contributing factors include Guatemalan military border incursions, a poor economy, and widespread government corruption. The Mexican Government and military have recognized these problems and are working hard to effect positive changes (i.e., President Salinas' anticorruption and economic revival stances).

[REDACTED]

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military can prevent small-scale riots and repel conventional weapon border incursions of a same-size enemy force.

(5) (U) Low Intensity Conflict (Type B)

(a) (U) *Definition.* Low intensity conflict, type B, internal defense and development assistance operations involve advice, combat support, and combat service support for indigenous or allied forces engaged in establishing, regaining, or maintaining control of specific land areas threatened by guerrilla warfare, revolution, subversion, or other tactics aimed at internal seizure of power.

(b) (U) The Mexican Government and Armed Forces have a very limited capability to lend support and assistance to an ally. Mexico offered to lend military support during the recent Persian Gulf War, but retracted its offer when logistics problems rendered the plan infeasible. The Mexican Government's liaison work with the Guatemalan and US Governments in preventing drug-trafficking and armed border clashes is a working example of Mexico's assistance efforts.

c. (U) Overall Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) (U) *General.* This section lists, by subtopic, major strengths and weaknesses for all of the armed services of Mexico.

(a) (U) Military Budget

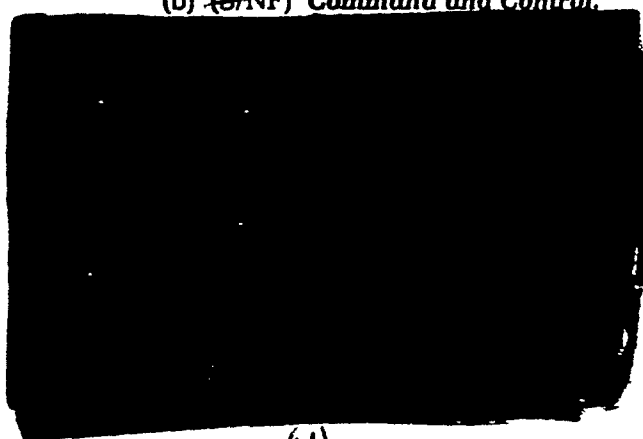
-1- (U) The Government of Mexico has increasingly allocated more money to the military over recent years—despite high governmental debt and budget austerity. This reflects President Salinas' dual commitment to a strong military and a credible counterdrug effort. However, the military budget allotment has traditionally been a mere fraction of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Mexico, resulting in a national defense force substantially smaller than the nation requires. For example, the 1989 military budget was only .003 percent of the GDP. The Secretariats of National Defense and the Navy usually receive proportional amounts based on their sizes—70 percent and 30 percent, respectively.

(U)
-2- (U) The following are reported figures for the Mexican military budget, 1982 through 1992. Yearly exchange rates differ, resulting in varied figures.

	\$ in Millions	Pesos in Billions
1982	926	52.2
1983	500	72.0
1984	489	94.2
1985	807	300.1
1986	406	374.7
1987	NA	NA
1988	NA	NA
1989	641	1,576.9
1990	678	1,908.1
1991	NA	NA
1992	1,180	3,543.6

-3- (U) In 1992, 389 million dollars is reported to be allocated to the Mexican Navy and Marine Corps. Based on the 70/30 assumption mentioned above, this would allocate roughly 800 million dollars to the army. It is unclear if this 1992 budget includes all funding for acquisitions. Special projects, such as large acquisition programs, when approved, may very likely include additional appropriations.

(b) (S/NF) Command and Control



(U)
-1- (S/NF) Some surveillance radars with limited capabilities are in operation. Because military and civilian radars are not interconnected, coordination of counterdrug efforts is weak.

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(u)
-2- (S/NF) The influence of the Mexican NCO corps is weak. The effectiveness of the Mexican military's NCO corps is stifled by an over-large officer corps that is reluctant to delegate authority.

(u)
-3- (S/NF) The organization, equipment, and training of the army are well suited for conducting counterinsurgency operations. The Mexican Army is capable of suppressing a regional insurgency, as demonstrated by its successful counterinsurgency campaign in Guerrero State in 1974. The widespread deployment of the army, its close ties to the people, and its generally favorable reputation are significant assets in any future counterinsurgency operations. Only a massive, nationwide insurrection would challenge the army's ability to maintain order.

(u)
(c) (S/NF) *Logistics.* Air transport is limited largely to northern and extreme southern areas of the country because of sparsity of paved military runways.

(u)
-1- (S/NF) There is a lack of adequate ground transport assets. Although the Mexican military is attempting to procure more vehicles, the heterogeneous nature of the current transport assets and unresolved maintenance problems reduce the army's transport effectiveness.

(u)
-2- (S/NF) The national road network is poor and limits ground movement of forces and supplies. The country's road infrastructure is adequate in and around the capital and major cities, but not in the rural areas.

-3- (S/NF) Combat support for the Mexican Army is inadequate. [REDACTED]

-4- (S/NF) Combat service support is also inadequate. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
However, by pooling its transportation assets, the army has shown the ability to reposition combat units in support of counterdrug operations.

(u)
-5- (S/NF) As mentioned earlier, the Mexican Army could not support an overseas expeditionary force logistically. This was evident during the recent Persian Gulf Crisis when President Salinas was forced to retract a previous offer of military assistance.

(u)
-6- (S/NF) [REDACTED]
-7- (S/NF) The Mexican military continues to be heavily dependent on foreign sources for most of its military equipment. Countries of foreign military procurement include the United States, France, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Israel, Spain, Germany, and Singapore.

(u)
-8- (S/NF) Despite recent modernization efforts, Mexico continues to field primarily an antiquated armed forces. In addition, there is a shortage of technical personnel to properly maintain the equipment. For a list of major Mexican military equipment, see appendix A.

(d) (S/NF) *Intelligence.* [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Military zone commanders use an information platoon to collect intelligence in their area, because there is no intelligence branch. For more information on military intelligence, refer to chapter 3, 3-7 (d), and ACP Mexico Part II, *Intelligence and Security*.

(e) (S/NF) *Capability.* [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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(u)
-1- (S/NF) The Mexican Navy and Marines lack adequate support vessels for continuous strategic or distant operations. Only limited, short-term support is available on the tactical level during a conventional confrontation.

(u)
-2- (S/NF) The Mexican Navy retains an insufficient number of serviceable craft to patrol its vast coastlines and international waterways. In addition, the navy lacks the type and number of vessels to patrol competently the numerous inland waterways and rivers.

-3- (C/NF)

(u)
(f) (C/NF) **Corruption.** Corruption exists in the army—as in all branches of the Mexican Armed Forces—and it affects all ranks. Corruption is most notable with units participating in counterdrug operations, because drugtraffickers are often able to entice some military personnel to cooperate in return for various forms of compensation. However, much to the credit of President Salinas, dedicated efforts to clean up military corruption have seen positive results.

(u)
(g) (S/NF) **Training.** Field exercises above the battalion level are seldom held in the Mexican Army.

(h) (U) **Military and Civil Affairs**

(u)
-1- (C/NF) Through Mexican military civic action, the armed forces perform a vital and highly visible service for the Mexican populace. This tradition was established in the Mexican Army during the Revolution.

(u)
-2- (C/NF) Through trades learned in the military, former military personnel become better qualified to assume civilian jobs.

(u)
(i) (C/NF) Table 2-6 list the strengths and weaknesses of the Mexican Armed Forces.

Specific strengths and weaknesses for individual units and service branches are addressed in chapter 3, 3-1.

Table 2-6. (U) Major Strengths and Weaknesses

Weaknesses	Strengths
Inadequate national and interservice command and control	Successful with regional, conventional military control
Inadequate strategic-level logistics (to include combat and service support)	Logistical support of small-scale operations
Dependence on foreign military equipment; overly heterogeneous and outdated inventory	Jobs; Ex-military better qualified
Lack of strategic, interservice, and real-time intelligence	Civic actions provided by the military
Need for more military training	Government appears willing to address problems
Government and military corruption	
Limited conventional warfare capability	
Weak influence of NCO corps	
Insufficient military budget	

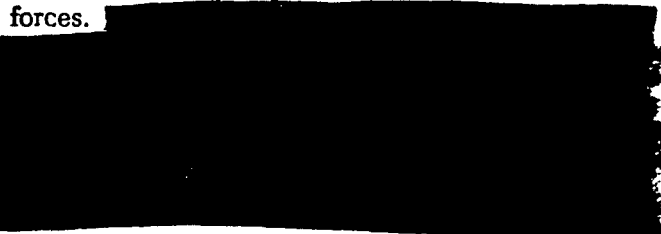
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d. (U) **Operational Readiness**

(u)
(1) (C/NF) The Mexican Army has a minimal capability to conduct successful conventional warfare against an external threat. For example, the large number of infantry and motorized cavalry units lack adequate supporting arms and logistics for sustained conventional warfare. Although well

suited for many internal defense missions, these units would be of little value against a modern military force.

(2) ~~(CONF)~~ Personnel and logistic problems are seriously impairing the readiness of the air forces.



(3) (U) For specific information on military readiness and capabilities, see chapter 3, 3-1, 3-7, and 3-8.

2-8. (U) Ground Force Reserves

a. ^(U) ~~(C)~~ Although the Mexican reserve system, known as the National Military Service (*Servicio Militar Nacional*—SMN), is compulsory for all 18-year-old males, only about 90,000 of the 1.1 million reaching military age annually are trained in each cycle. Selection is determined by lottery, but individuals are exempt if they live more than a certain distance from their nearest unit. Reserve conscripts may train with active infantry battalions and cavalry regiments for 6 hours each Saturday for 38 weeks. Other reservists serve 5 months with a company specifically designed for this purpose. Training, especially in rural areas, is directed mainly toward development of vocational and literacy skills. While on active duty, reserve conscripts receive the same entitlements as professional soldiers.

b. (U) First and Second Reserves

^(U) (1) ~~(C)~~ The army reserves are made up of first and second reserves. The first reserve consists of conscripted reservists and all former military personnel who have received an honorable separation from active duty. Officers and soldiers will remain in the first reserve until age 36. NCOs must remain in first reserve status until age 33. Conscripts are obligated to the first reserve until age 30.

For information on navy and marine reserves, see chapter 4.

^(U) (2) ~~(C)~~ The second reserve consists of persons who have completed their time in the first reserve and remain physically fit for service in the army. Maximum age limits for the second reserve range from 40 to 50 years.

^(U) (3) ~~(C)~~ Upon completion of military service, veterans receive a military identity card, commonly referred to as a *cartilla*. It is revalidated every 2 years while the individual remains in the first reserve. The *cartilla* is required when one applies for a passport, driver's license, or employment. This procedure provides the Mexican Government a valuable means of keeping track of its adult male population.

^(U) (4) ~~(C)~~ During a national emergency, the SMN conscripts undergoing training would integrate into active units. The Secretariat of National Defense maintains records on former conscripts who would form the next group to be called to active duty. However, a general call-up would be necessary if the country mobilized.

^(U) (5) ~~(C)~~ Mexican youths who register for national military service but are not required to serve in the active reserve probably form an inactive reserve.

2-9. (U) Key Personalities

^(U) a. ~~(CONF)~~ Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Salinas is President of Mexico and Commander in Chief of the Army (see figure 2-1). Salinas was born on 3 April 1948. After earning an economics degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, he attended Harvard University, receiving two master degrees and a doctorate in political economy and government policy. Salinas' career has been intertwined with that of President Miguel de la Madrid (1982-88), who, in October 1987, selected Salinas as the ruling party presidential candidate. As an economist, Salinas can be expected to continue to push policies designed to reduce the federal budget deficit, lower trade

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barriers, and reform unprofitable state-owned enterprises.

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Figure 2-1. (U) President Carlos Salinas de Gortari

(u)
b. (CNF) General Antonio Riviello Bazan. Riviello, born 21 November 1926, is Secretary of National Defense (see figure 2-2). Riviello graduated from the Mexican Military Academy in 1944 and was commissioned as an infantry officer. He served in several field positions until 1950 when he was selected to attend the Superior War College. He served from 1983 to 1984 as Inspector General of the Army and then served in Spain as a military attache. He returned to the post of Inspector General in 1987, where he served for several months before becoming Commander of the 1st Army Corps in October 1987. His reputation is that of an intelligent, honest disciplinarian and micro-manager. Salinas is said to value Riviello's unswerving support.

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Figure 2-2. (U) General Antonio Riviello Bazan

(u)
c. (CNF) LTG Hector Vicente Ahuja Fuster. Ahuja, Commander of the Mexican Air Force since 1991 (see figure 2-3), comes at a time when the FAM is expanding, modernizing, and assuming a more visible role. Prior to his current position, Ahuja headed the Air Force Academy and served as attache to London and Washington, DC. Ahuja is an articulate, contemplative individual who is very people oriented. Although his political views are not widely known, Ahuja is fond of the United States and is staunchly anticommunist. General Ahuja is married and has two children and four grandchildren.

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Figure 2-3. (U) LTG Hector Vicente Ahuja Fuster

(u)
d. (S//NF) Vice Admiral Jose Luis Munoz Mier. Munoz is Director General of Marine Forces (see figure 2-4). Admiral Munoz has been the driving force in the expansion and

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Figure 2-4. (U) VADM Jose Luis Munoz Mier

modernization of the Mexican Marine Forces. Although he was superseded as the top marine when the new position of commander of marine forces was established in 1990, Admiral Munoz continues to play a key role and is reportedly still considered the head of the marine forces by units in the field.

e. (C/NF) MG Enrique T. Salgado Cordero. Salgado has been Chief of the National Defense Staff since 1988 (see figure 2-5). General Salgado is a dynamic, affable officer who successfully maintains the day-to-day operations of the Defense Secretariat. Salgado has helped promote US-Mexican relations.

Salgado's previous assignments include Director, National Defense College and Chief of Staff, 21st Military Zone. Upon leaving his current position, Salgado will most likely command a military zone. General Salgado is married and has three children.

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Figure 2-5. (U) MG Enrique T. Salgado Cordero

f. (C/NF) Admiral Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo. Ruano has been Secretary of the Navy since 1990 (picture unavailable). Admiral Ruano has moved decisively to modernize the Mexican Navy. He has established six naval regions in what would appear to be an effort to decentralize control and enhance operational capability. He has allotted a major portion of the naval budget to modernizing the surface fleet. Ruano has commanded various naval zones and has served as Naval Attache to Peru, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In addition, Ruano has attended the Inter-American Defense College in Wash ngton, DC. Ruano's politi-

cal views are unknown. However, he has worked closely with US officials on force modernization and counterdrug issues. Admiral Ruano enjoys boating and sketching and speaks excellent English.

2-10. (U) Morale and Discipline

(u)
a. (C/NF) The Mexican military possesses a high level of pride. Morale levels vary from unit to unit, with special forces groups exhibiting superior spirit. Personnel who have been stationed away from their home garrisons for long periods of time tend to display the lowest levels of morale; to combat this, commanders attempt to rotate units on a regular basis.

(u)
b. (C/NF) The officer corps is top-heavy, making the NCO corps less effective. Because not enough time is spent as NCO leaders, leadership values taught to NCOs are not allowed to develop fully under working conditions.

(u)
c. (C/NF) Personal initiatives within the military are encouraged as long as they support the current administration's goals and beliefs. Fear of job loss or career stagnation influence most military personnel to support government and military policies. Promising personnel who have shown an unswerving and honest commitment to the administration are rewarded.

2-11. (U) Uniforms, Insignia, and Decorations

a. (U) Uniforms

(u)
(1) (2) The army officer corps has a blue dress uniform and a dark field-green service uniform. The dress uniform of army enlisted personnel is dark field green with branch of service designated by a colored bar displayed on the epaulet. Infantry personnel wear a scarlet red bar; cavalry, hussar blue; artillery, crimson; and engineers, cobalt blue. Hot weather uniforms are suntan khaki. Air force personnel wear the same uniform as the army. A standard single-breasted jacket is

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worn with straight trousers, except in the field environment. Members of the elite Airborne Brigade are distinguished by camouflage fatigues and a maroon beret. Naval tailors make all navy uniforms.

(2) (U) Headgear ranges from the conventional peaked service cap to field overseas caps or steel helmets. Helmets resemble the French design of derby crown with narrow, sloping brim. Senior officer service caps have visor decorations that become more elaborate with higher rank.

b. (U) Rank Insignia

(1) (U) The grade structure and rank insignia of the Mexican Army is similar to that of the US Army. Rank is indicated by bars, stars, or embellished stars for officers and by horizontal stripes for NCOs. Army officers display rank insignia on shoulder straps on the service uniform; sub-lieutenants wear one gold bar, lieutenants wear two, and captains wear two-and-half or three bars. Field grade rank starts with one gold star for major, two stars for lieutenant colonel, and three stars set in a triangle for colonel. Generals wear silver stars with the addition of a semicircular laurel wreath enclosing the eagle of the national coat of arms. A brigadier general wears an eagle and a silver star. The Secretary of Defense is the only four-star general in the Mexican Army.

(2) (U) NCO rank insignia are worn on the sleeve, above the elbow. NCOs wear a horizontal stripe or stripes that vary in color depending on the branch of service. Corporals wear one full horizontal stripe. A sergeant second class uses two horizontal stripes, and a sergeant first class uses three. Privates display one short stripe worn vertically.

(3) (U) Army rank insignia for officers and enlisted are illustrated in figure 2-6. A listing of army, air force, and navy officers and enlisted ranks and US equivalents is provided in table 2-5.

(4) (U) Branch Insignia. Mexican Army branch insignia is made of brass and is worn on the

lapel, similar to the US Army. Special duties or accomplishments are represented by badges worn over the right breast pocket. Badges regularly are awarded for members of the presidential service and general staffs. Graduates of the military academy wear a distinctive emblem.

c. (U) Decorations. The eagle emblem of the national coat of arms decorates cap ornaments, buttons, wings, and other apparel. The Mexican Army makes extensive use of awards and decorations. Numerous national symbols confer official recognition of military and civilian accomplishments. Although there are many military awards and decorations for professional, technical, and academic accomplishments, military personnel are eligible for any national decoration. The display of foreign decorations by military personnel is permitted if approved by the Federal Congress.












(1) (U) The Mexican Order of Military Merit Cross (*Orden de Merito Militar*), established in 1902, is awarded in three classes. In addition to officers of the Mexican Army, foreign army officers who have rendered a valuable service to the Mexican Armed Forces also are awarded the Order of Military Merit Cross. Officers receive gold crosses and enlisted men receive bronze.

(2) (U) The Heroic Valor Medal is also presented in three classes. A decoration for Technical Military Merit, created in 1926, is presented in two classes: one for Mexicans and one for foreign nationals who have assisted in developing the armed forces. The Cross for Fidelity, also established in 1926, is awarded in four classes. The Cross for Pensioners was created in 1911.






(3) (U) In December 1911, the Military Long Service Cross was established to reward long-serving members of the military for outstanding service. Various other awards recognize long and meritorious service or special accomplishments in engineering, sports, and teaching at military schools. Participants in significant battles, campaigns, and wars receive commemorative campaign medals.

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Army Officer Insignias

										
Subteniente	Teniente	Capitan Segundo	Capitan Primero	Mayor	Teniente Coronel	Coronel	General Brigadier	General de Brigada	General de Division	General de Division (SDN)

Army Enlisted Insignias

				
Soldado	Soldado de Primera	Cabo	Sargento Segundo	Sargento Primero

Air Force Officer Insignias

									
Subteniente	Teniente	Capitan Segundo	Capitan Primero	Mayor	Teniente Coronel	Coronel	General de Grupo	General de Ala	General de Division

Naval Officers Insignias

									
Guardiamarina	Teniente de Corbeta	Teniente de Fragata	Teniente de Navio	Capitan de Corbeta	Capitan de Fragata	Capitan de Navio	Contralmirante	Vicealmirante	Almirante

Figure 2-6. (U) Officer and Enlisted Ground Force Insignia

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Chapter 3: Battlefield Operating Systems (U)

3-1. (U) Maneuver

a. (U) Regular Combat Forces

(U)
(1) (S/NF) Scope and Definition. Units stationed in and around Mexico City, units on the northern and southern borders, and special forces teams are considered as the most capable units in the Mexican Armed Forces.

(2) (U) Ground Force Tactics and Operations

(U)
(a) (S/NF) There is no information available on how the Mexican ground forces plan to carry out large-scale offensive or defensive operations; the modern Mexican Army has not conducted such military operations in recent history. However, it is probable that the Mexican military would follow US-type tactical doctrine that has been adapted to fit their internal security and counterdrug missions. Additionally, some further conclusions can be drawn about the army's operations by examining Mexico's foreign policy of non-intervention and self-determination. In keeping with this policy, army units have not prepared

large-scale offensive plans against neighboring countries of Guatemala, Belize, or the United States. The Mexican Army's offensive capabilities come secondary to its primary mission—the preservation of internal stability.

(U)
(b) (S/NF) Offensive operations are not an integral part of Mexico's tactical doctrine, but classroom instruction in offensive tactics is provided at all levels of training. Instruction emphasizes the roles of different military units. Accordingly, the infantry is tasked to capture or destroy enemy forces by means of firepower and maneuver. The armored units participate as a combat force with or without combat support forces. The cavalry conduct reconnaissance, envelop the enemy, or attack the enemy's flank. Artillery units are trained to support Mexican ground forces by use of firepower to neutralize established objectives. Artillery doctrine emphasizes surprise as a critical factor in offensive operations. In combat, the Mexican Army would be seriously hampered during offensive operations by the absence of tank support.

(U)
(c) (S/NF) Scouting and patrolling are the most widely employed Mexican tactical

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operations. Although an integral part of every soldier's training, scouting and patrolling most often are conducted by the mounted cavalry regiments. Reconnaissance operations entail aggressive patrolling using small patrols to crisscross established grids.

(3) (S/NF) General. [REDACTED]

For a complete listing of Mexican ground combat units, see table 3-1.

(4) (S/NF) [REDACTED]

(5) (U) The following represents army elements by unit type and echelon.

(a) (U) *Infantry*

-1- (S/NF) [REDACTED]

The Presidential Guard Brigade is under direct control of the president.

-2- (S) [REDACTED]

figure 3-1).

(see appendix C).

Table 3-1. (U) Ground Combat Units

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arms, medium machineguns, 60mm mortars, and bazookas.

See chapter 2, table 2-4, for a listing of army battalions.

(b) ~~(S/NF)~~ Motorized Infantry.

(c) ~~(S/NF)~~ Mechanized Infantry.

There is no mechanized infantry in the Mexican military.

(d) ~~(S/NF)~~ Airborne. The most capable of all units is the airborne brigade, which is commanded by MG Ramon R. Arrieta Hurtado. Although part of the air force, the airborne brigade is directly subordinate to the SDN.

All members of the airborne brigade volunteer to be paratroopers. The high reputation of this unit attracts volunteers. The training includes a rigorous 10-week ground phase and five parachute jumps. Transport aircraft for the airborne brigade include 9 C-130A Hercules transports and an assortment of intermediate- and short-range aircraft. Rigorous training and the airborne mystique contribute to making the airborne brigade the most capable ground unit in the Mexican Armed Forces. A "ready" battalion can be deployed rapidly by parachute drop or transportation by air to any part of the country. Elements of the brigade deploy in counterdrug and law enforcement support operations.

(e) ~~(S/NF)~~ Motorized Regiments.

(f) ~~(S/NF)~~ Horse Cavalry. The 1st Cavalry Regiment (horse) carries on the traditions of the horse cavalry. It has 732 personnel and 560 horses assigned. The regiment is organized with two mounted assault squadrons, one mounted band, and one ceremonial horse-drawn 75mm howitzer battery. Although the 1st Cavalry Regiment functions primarily as a ceremonial unit, it participates in crowd control and counterinsurgency contingency missions.

(g) (U) Armor

-1- ~~(S/NF)~~ In 1990, a new armored branch was established; armored units formerly had been under the administration of the cavalry branch. The armored branch includes armored reconnaissance regiments and armored reconnaissance troops.

[REDACTED]

-2- (S/NF) There are three separate armored reconnaissance regiments directly subordinate to the SDN. They are the 3d, 8th, and 7th Armored Reconnaissance Regiments.

-3- (S/NF) [REDACTED]

(h) (S/NF) *Assault.* The only assault battalion in the army is assigned to the Presidential Guard Brigade, which specializes in protecting the President and controlling riots.

[REDACTED]

(i) (S/NF) *Combined Arms.* There are no combined arms units in the army.

[REDACTED]

(j) (S/NF) *Artillery.* [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] See Appendixes A and B for additional equipment assigned to artillery units.

b. (U) *Combat Support Units*

(1) (S/NF) *General.* Although many infantry units operate without combat support units, the trend is to create force multipliers by using artillery and air defense forces.

(2) (U) *Engineers*

(a) (S/NF) *Combat Engineers.*

[REDACTED]

(b) (S/NF) *Construction Engineers.* Construction engineers (service engineers) are an integral part of the army engineers. Separate from the combat engineers, construction engineers conduct all other engineering projects in support of the army and air force. Their mission is to maintain and control equipment and materiel to satisfy the needs of the army. Additionally, they construct, repair, and maintain buildings and installations.



Figure 3-2. (U) Artillery

All service engineer battalions are assigned to the Engineer Service Brigade

(U)
c. (U) Support. The Communications Service of the Mexican Army is responsible for maintaining efficient and timely communications between the high command (Secretariat of National Defense) and combat and service units. Its mission includes installation and operation of all communications equipment in support of military operations. Communication detachments are assigned to military region and zone headquarters. In addition, the 1st Signal Battalion is assigned to 1st Corps and is stationed in Mexico City.

d. (U) Military Police

(1) (U) The MP Corps is the law enforcement arm of the military. Its responsibility extends to all units, installations, and ground areas of the army and air force. Specific duties include: protecting the national defense headquarters and other army and air force installations; cooperating with other special army elements in investigating and preventing espionage, sabotage, and other subver-

sive activities; and assisting civilian law and order in the event of civil disturbances.

(u)
(2) (CAF) Military Police Brigade. The only MP unit is the MP Brigade. It consists of three MP battalions, one MP training battalion, the 8th Armored Reconnaissance Regiment, and a Federal Judicial Military Police detachment. Except for the MP training battalion (Santa Lucia, Mexico), all elements of the MP Brigade are located at Military Camp Number 1 (BE 0643-00021) in Mexico City. These units can be deployed in times of need to locations outside of the capital. This brigade is directly subordinate to the SDN, with an approximate authorized strength of 3,000 men. It is the Mexican Army's best equipped and trained unit to deal with civil disturbances and crowd control.

(u)
e. (S/NF) Chemical, Intelligence, Electronic Warfare. There are no known chemical or electronic warfare units. For information on Mexican military intelligence units and capabilities, see 3-7.

(u)
f. (S/NF) Army Aviation. There are no army aviation combat support units. The SDN, traditionally an army officer, has operational control over major air force units. The Presidential Transport Squadron is piloted and maintained by the air

force. See 3-5 for complete information on Mexican air assets.

g. (U) Special Operations Units

(U)
(1) (~~SECRET~~) Army special operations units include the Group of 100 and the Special Forces Airmobile Group. In addition, there is a dedicated counterdrug unit, designated Task Force Marte.

(U)
(2) (~~SECRET~~) The Group of 100 (*Grupo de los Cien*) is the army's principal antiterrorist unit. It was established in 1986 to provide security for the World Cup soccer games in Mexico City. French security services trained the Group of 100 in special weapon and antiterrorist tactics. As the name implies, it is a company-size formation. The Group of 100 is stationed in Mexico City, under the direct control of the SDN.

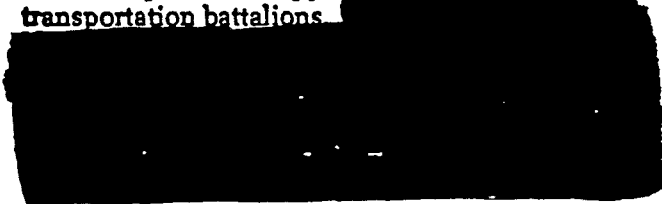
(U)
(3) (~~SECRET~~) The Special Forces Airmobile Group, or GAFE (*Grupo Aeromovil de las Fuerzas Especiales*), is a reinforced platoon-size commando unit of approximately 50 personnel. This unit initially was trained in the United States in special weapon and urban assault tactics and assigned a counterdrug role. The GAFE is also under the direct control of the SDN and is based at Santa Fe, Federal District.

(4) (~~SECRET~~)

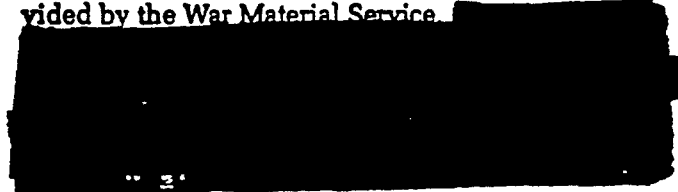


h. (U) Combat Service Support Units.
Service units consist of administrative and logistic support elements. They are usually task-organized by size and function according to the support required for operations. Major service functions include communications, transportation, engineers, war material, administration, logistics, medical, legal, veterinary, and cartography.

(1) (~~SECRET~~) **Transportation.** The Transportation Service is responsible for the organization and direction of all activities relating to transportation of personnel, equipment, and other material support. It provides the army and air force general-use vehicles, spare parts, and related equipment. The Transportation Service does not include transport activities that have purely tactical objectives. Tactical transportation support is provided by seven transportation battalions.



(2) (~~SECRET~~) **Supply.** The War Material Service controls all war materiel, equipment, and munitions for the army and air force. Installation and maintenance of industrial equipment is also provided by the War Material Service.



war material battalions may have been formed by enlisting former civilian employees of the Department of Military Industry as soldiers.

(3) (U) **Logistics Service.** The Logistics Service supplies the items required to support the army and air force in garrison. It provides food, clothing, individual and collective equipment, field and barracks material, and all other comfort and housekeeping requirements. To provide this support, the Logistics Service manufactures, acquires, and stores these supplies.

(4) (U) **Administration Service.** The Administration Service is responsible for military statistics and accounting and auditing the military budget. It provides specialized personnel for administration of units, branches, and installations. The Administration Service also acquires all articles for administrative requirements.

(5) (U) **Health Service.** The Health Service, also referred to as the Medical Service, provides health care for active duty members (see figure 3-3). Medical attention is also provided for military dependents and retirees. Medical prevention and treatment include surgery, dentistry, and control of epidemics. Training army personnel in first aid is an additional function of the Medical Service.

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Figure 3-3. (U) Health Service

(6) (U) **Legal Service.** The Legal Service is responsible for the administration of military justice. It oversees the carrying out of sentences and provides the Secretary of National Defense with advice on operating military prisons.

(7) (U) **Veterinary and Remount Service.** The Veterinary and Remount Service is responsible

for the selection, care, and disposition of all animals used by the army. In addition to using horses and military dogs, the army raises livestock for its own consumption.

(8) (U) **Cartographic Service.** The Cartographic Service is responsible for all geodesic, photographic, and topographic projects. Its mission includes production and dissemination of maps, aerial photos, and similar materials for the army and air force.

(9) (U) **Special Corps of the Army and Air Force.** The Special Corps of the Army and Air Force are special branches established by the Organic Law (of the Mexican Congress). They are specially trained and equipped forces with specific missions. Personnel assigned to the Presidential Guard, Airborne, Military Police, and Military Music Corps compose the Special Corps.

(a) (S/NF) The Presidential Guard Corps is under the direct control of the president. The corps, which consists of army personnel assigned to the Presidential General Staff and the 1st Infantry (Presidential Guard) Brigade, was established in 1947. The mission of the Presidential Guard Brigade is to guarantee the safety of the president of the republic, guard his residence and other related installations, and conduct ceremonies.

(b) (S/NF) The president exercises control of the Presidential Guard Brigade through the Presidential General Staff, an organization separate from the rest of the military. The Presidential Guard Brigade is authorized approximately 4,000 army troops

All elements are in Mexico City. The Presidential Guard Brigade and the Airborne Brigade are considered the best trained and equipped units.

(c) (U) The Military Music Corps is the organization, operation, and administration of all army and air force bands and orchestras.

(10) (U) Rural Defense Corps. See chapter 5, 5-1.

i. (U) Operations, Tactics, Training, and Combat Experience

(1) (U) ~~(CONF)~~ A threat to the government of Mexico, whether originating from within or outside its national borders, would be met with dedicated multiservice response. Successful interdiction will depend on how large and capable the aggressor is and on how quickly Mexican forces can be dispatched. Insufficient joint-service training, overcentralized organization, poor logistics sustainability, and an inadequate weapons inventory limit the types of defenses available to the Mexican military. Unless the threat is small-scale, addressed in a timely manner, and conventional in nature, the chances of success are slight.

(2) (U) ~~(CONF)~~ A Mexican offensive beyond its borders is not anticipated. The most probable confrontation would be with Guatemala, tactical in nature, and would not penetrate very far into the country. Today, Mexican counterdrug patrols often venture across borders on land, sea, and air in pursuit of drugtraffickers. However, due to ambiguous border markings and dense jungle, these incursions are usually accidental in nature.

j. (U) ~~(C)~~ Conclusions. The military has evolved into a force suited primarily for the defense of the administration and the control and support of the civilian population. See 3-1(a)2; chapter 2, 2-5, 2-6; chapter 1, 1-6. For information on strengths and weaknesses of the Mexican military, see chapter 1, 1-1(a) and (b) and 1-6; chapter 2, 2-7(b) and table 2-6.

3-2. (U) Special Operations Forces

a. (U) Scope and Definitions

(1) (U) ~~(CONF)~~ Mexican Special Operations Forces (SOF) units include The Group of 100 (counterterrorist unit), the GAFE, the Airborne Brigade, the Marine Airborne Company, Task Force

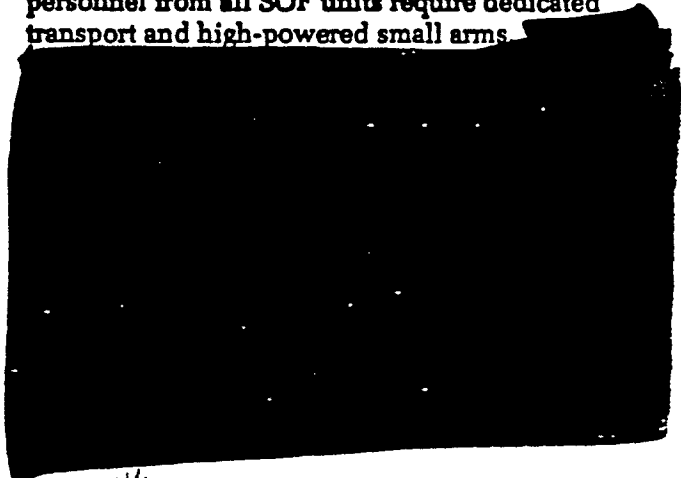
Marte, and the Marine Special Operations Company.

(2) (U) ~~(CONF)~~ Mexican SOF compare well with those found in other militaries of the world, but are inflexible because of overcentralization. Personnel within the units exhibit high morale and honor, reflecting the intense mental and physical training required for membership.

b. (U) Organization and Equipment

(1) (U) A complete Table of Organization and Equipment for all units is not available at this time. However, certain assumptions can be made.

(2) (U) ~~(S/NF)~~ Because of the requirements for speed and agility during a special forces mission, personnel from all SOF units require dedicated transport and high-powered small arms.



c. (U) ~~(C)~~ The wide range of missions assigned the special forces units require equipment reflecting the characteristics of the type country to be defended. For complete information on organization of the Airborne Brigade and Task Force Marte, see appendix C.

d. (U) ~~(CONF)~~ Conclusion. The Mexican special operations units are capable and motivated units, but are reported to be organizationally inflexible. Current activities include a role in the war against drugs and border control activities. However, if threatened by a modern conventional force of large scale, or a nonconventional force, successful defense or offense will not be possible.

3-3. (U) Fire Support

a. ~~(CONF)~~ Scope and Definition. The artillery regiments are equipped with a variety of weapons. [REDACTED]

b. ~~(C)~~ Organization and Equipment. [REDACTED]

Refer to appendix A and appendix C for a complete listing. Also, see 3-1(j).

c. ~~(CONF)~~ Conclusion. The Mexican Army is considering the acquisition of a [REDACTED] towed howitzer from the United States, Italy, or France. [REDACTED]

The artillery units have a wide diversity of guns and mortars, making standardized training and ammunition difficult.

3-4. (U) Combat Engineers

a. ~~(S/NF)~~ Scope and Definitions. [REDACTED]

For additional information on engineers, see 3-1.b.(2).

b. ~~(C)~~ When not in use to support the military, combat engineer units are utilized in the civilian sector. The most common missions are construction and disaster relief.

3-5. (U) Air Defense

a. ~~(CONF)~~ Scope and Definitions. The army has [REDACTED] air artillery defense guns in its inventory. The army is interested in acquiring an air defense system (type not noted) complete with training and initial field support.

b. ~~(C)~~ Conclusion. The Mexican Army has no viable ground-based air defense capabilities because of historical focus on internal security. An enemy with a large numbers of aircraft can easily overwhelm the current defense system. The Mexican Air Force is limited in ability to contribute to air defense because of questionable operational rates and limited training in the air-to-air role. Additional Air Force capabilities are discussed further in 3-6.

3-6. (U) Army Aviation

a. ~~(S/NF)~~ Mexico has no army aviation combat support units. The Secretary of National Defense, traditionally an army officer, has operational control over major air force units. For this reason, the Mexican Air Force is listed in this section.

b. ~~(CONF)~~ Mission. The mission of the Mexican Air Force (*Fuerza Aerea Mexicana*—FAM) is to assist the army in defending national territory and maintaining internal security by providing air defense, close air support, interdiction, air transport, troop and supply paratroop, and aerial reconnaissance. In addition, the air force is tasked with civic action, VIP airlift, and disaster relief.

c. (U) Organization, Deployment, and Personnel Strength

(1) ~~(CONF)~~ The FAM is organizationally part of the army, with the SND at the top of the formal FAM chain of command (see figure 3-4). As a

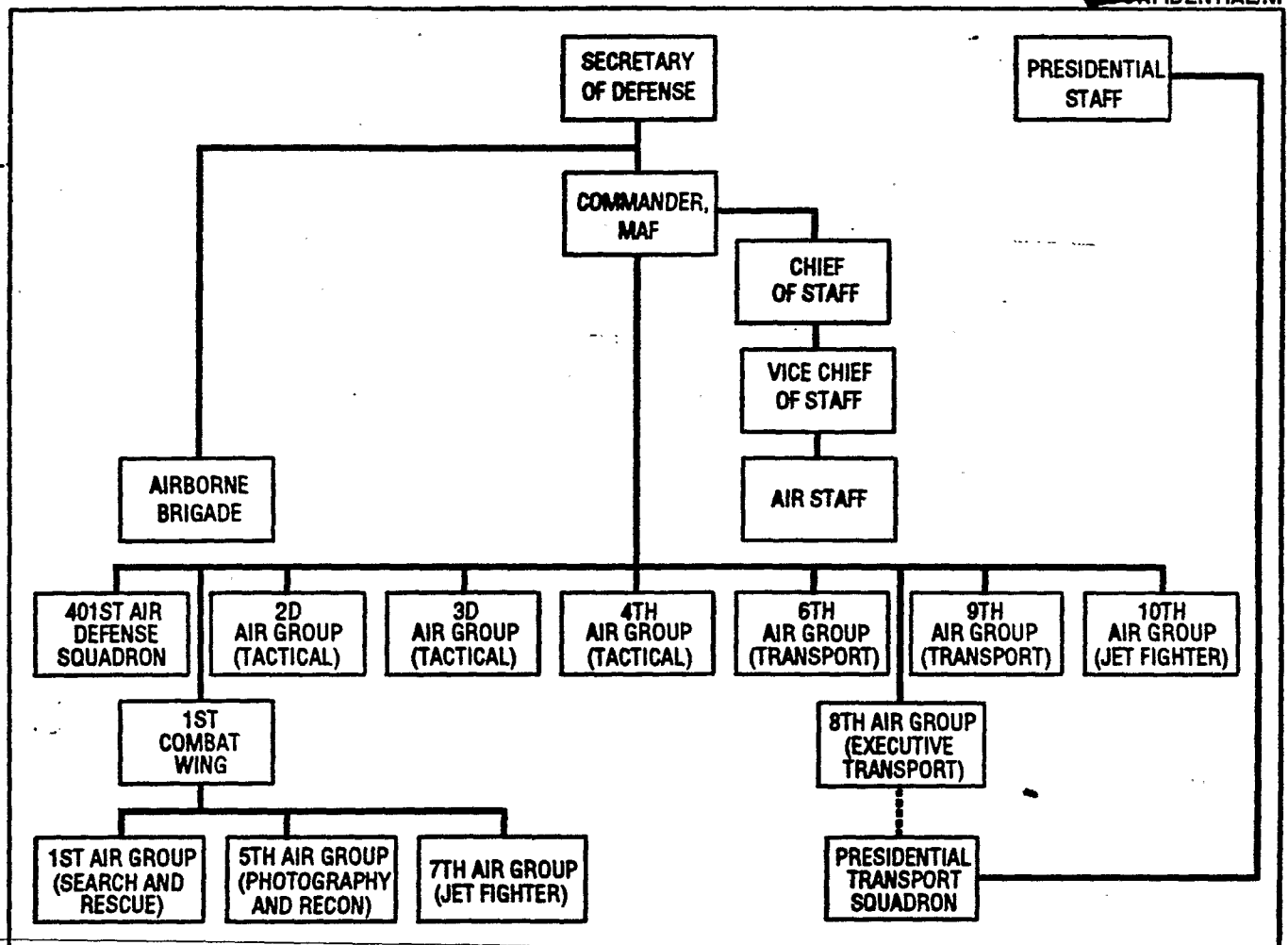


Figure 3-4. (U) Air Force Command Structure

result, the Chief of the Air Force General Staff, MG Mario Blancas Sanchez, as well as the heads of the various staff sections, are out of the formal chain of command. Directly subordinate to the FAM Commander are the air combat unit commanders, the base commanders, and the heads of the air academy, maintenance facility, and supply depot. Table 3-2 lists current Mexican Air Force commanders.

(2) Both the SDN and the Presidential Staff retain operational control over major air force units. The Secretary of Defense personally controls the Airborne Brigade, except for some administrative details and training that are delegated to the air force. In addition, he has a squadron of FAM aircraft at his disposal, controlled by

his staff. Aircraft from the Presidential Transport Squadron, piloted and maintained by FAM personnel, occasionally are lent to the air force on special occasions, but usually are not available for ordinary FAM operations.

(3) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] see table 3-3).

Three additional training squadrons are located at the air academy: one primary, one tactical, and one advanced.

Table 3-2. (U) Air Force Commanders

Position	Commander	Location
Comander Air Force	LTG Hector V. Ahuja Fuster	
Chief of Staff	MG Mario Blancas Sanchez	
DCS	BG Agustin Villega Sanchez	
Inspector General	BG Ernesto Arcos Oropesa	
Air Logistics Ctr	MG Juan Morero Torres	
Maintenance School	BG Joaquin Pena Coutino	
Air College	MG Herman Gonzalez Buenfil	
Chief of A-1	COL Antonio Delgado Quiroz	
Chief of A-2	COL Ernesto Rivera Rojas	
Chief of A-3	COL Jorge Sanchez Castillo	
Chief of A-4	COL Miguel Rodriguez Ramirez	
Chief of A-5	COL Leonardo Gonzalez Garcia	
IV Air Region	LTG Salvador Martinez Lopez	Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas
1st Combat Wing	BG Juan A. Wonchee Montado	Santa Lucia, MX
2nd Combat Wing	MG Gonzalo Curiel Garcia	Ciudad de Ixtepec, Oaxaca
Air Base No. 1	LTG Humberto Lucero Nevarez	Santa Lucia, MX
Air Base No. 2	MG Manuel Madrono Mendoza	Ixtepec, Oaxaca
Air Base No. 3	MG Arturo Torreg Alarcon	El Cipres, Baja California Norte
Air Base No. 4	BG Manuel Estrada Ricardez	Cozumel, Quintana Roo
Air Base No. 5	BG Mario A. Solis Rodriguez	Zapopan, Jalisco
Air Base No. 6	BG Sergio Parra Estrada	Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas
Air Base No. 7	BG Miguel Basurto Hidalgo	Pie de la Cuesta, Guerrero
Air Base No. 8	BG Conrado Armenta Castro	Merida, Yucatan
Air Base No. 9	MG Sergio Espinoza Morelos	La Paz, Baja California Sur
Air Base No. 11	BG Jose D. Magana Lopez	Mexico, D.F.
Air Base No. 12	BG Guillermo Ponce Ruiz	Tijuana, Baja California Norte

(4) (U) The Mexican Air Force has expressed interest in purchasing armed scout helicopters from the US. It is not known how many would be acquired or how they would be employed, but the air force realizes that they are far less expensive than comparable fixed-wing aircraft.

(6) [REDACTED]

(5) [REDACTED]

(7) [REDACTED] The major portion of the FAM is located within Mexico City (see figure 3-5).

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Table 3-3. (U) Air Force Strength

Secretariat of National Defense

Air Force (primarily devoted to support of army operations)

Aircraft:

[REDACTED]

short-range transports

[REDACTED]

utility

[REDACTED]

trainers

[REDACTED]

transport/utility helicopters

[REDACTED]

Attorney Generals Office (air arm devoted to coun-

terdrug operations)

Aircraft:

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET/NF~~

The main air force command elements and the ground units also are located in the Federal District. See figure 3-6 for an example of a common airfield.

(U)
(S) (CONF) The 8,000-man, all-volunteer air force has little difficulty in recruiting personnel to train as officers and noncommissioned officers, because the technical training received is valuable in obtaining employment with civilian airlines. However, personnel retention is a continuing problem. Greater opportunities in commercial aviation have resulted in a high attrition rate among trained FAM personnel. Technicians and mechanics often moonlight to make ends meet, and desertion is common at all levels—even among officers. For desertion figures, see paragraph 1-5.d.

3-7. (U) Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence

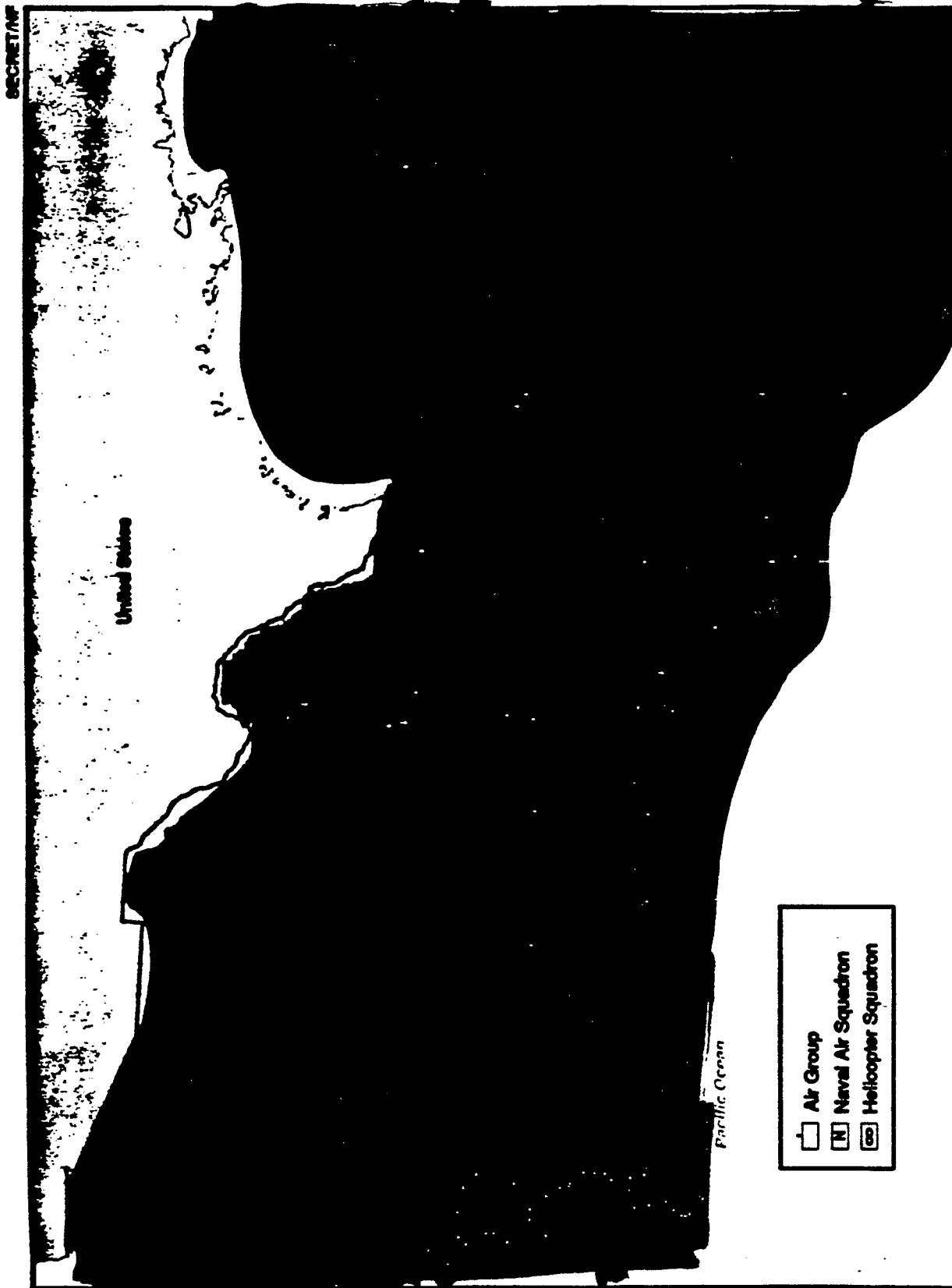
(U)
a. (C) Command and control suffers from over centralization and a rigid command structure. Even the most minute decisions, such as requisitions for spare parts or approval of officer leave forms, must be signed at the national level. This slows routine decision-making to a crawl, although the Secretary will bypass the chain of command and communicate directly with zone commanders on important issues. Most of the Mexican Army is dispersed as garrison units controlled by military zone headquarters, with no tactical organization

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Figure 3-5. (U) Air Force Disposition



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above battalion level. This zonal system does provide flexibility, as units can be transferred from one zone to another with little disruption. Efforts to professionalize the officer corps, coupled with operational experience in the drug war, are gradually improving the army's command and control capability.

(u)
b. (C) Interservice rivalries and the lack of any joint national defense and navy organization has resulted in minimal cooperation between the Mexican services. Such competition ultimately distorts the analysis that policymakers receive because each service probably exaggerates perceived threats to justify its existence and garner resources. In addition, there are many shortcomings in the army's coordination of counterdrug operations with both the Navy and the Attorney General's Office.

(u)
c. (S/NF) The Mexican Army currently is reorganizing and modernizing its communications support system. At the national level, efforts are under way to procure and install modern systems including computers and satellite relays to provide reliable, secure exchange of information between the National Defense Headquarters and the military region and zone commands. Previously, only telephone and teletype communications were available. At the tactical level, Mexican Army units rely on old US FM systems and radios purchased from Great Britain in 1986. In addition, the shortage of radios and lack of secure systems degrade effectiveness in counterdrug operations.

d. (U) Intelligence

(1) (S/NF) The army's intelligence capabilities are marginal and geared mainly to collection on domestic political groups and, more recently, on drugtrafficking activity. Resources devoted to nondomestic targets are limited to surveillance of various foreign embassies and diplomats, particularly the United States and Cuba. The Secretariat of Government, responsible for internal security, runs the General Directorate of Investigations and National Security (DGISN), probably Mexico's most efficient intelligence organization. The DGISN is well organized and uses its limited resources efficiently in collecting routine, short-term intelligence. Despite its limited man-

power

(2) (S/NF) The army's system of intelligence collection and analysis is rudimentary. Military zone commanders utilize an information platoon to collect intelligence in their area. *Partidas* (groups of information platoons) stationed in isolated areas and the rural defense corps also collect information. Raw intelligence is passed directly to the S-2 (intelligence) section of the National Defense Staff in Mexico City for analysis.

For additional information on the higher levels of Mexican military intelligence capabilities, see *ACP Mexico Part II, Intelligence and Security*.

(u)
(3) (S/NF) The Presidential Command Staff has its own S-2 section and provides independent analysis exclusively for the president. This unit is primarily concerned with providing security for the president, but also reports on other areas of concern to the president.

(u)
e. (S/NF) The Mexican naval communication system is being integrated with the coastal radar network to provide surveillance of the entire coastal area; however, austerity measures have prevented rapid progress. For complete information on Mexican military communication systems, see *ACP Mexico Part II, Intelligence and Security*.

f. (S/NF) SIGINT Capabilities.

For complete information on Mexican SIGINT capabilities, see *ACP Mexico Part II, Intelligence and Security*.

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3-8. (U) Logistics and Combat Service Support

a. (U) Organization

(1) (U) (C) The logistic system of the Mexican Army is highly centralized. The 4th Section of the National Defense General Staff is responsible for logistic planning. All phases of logistic planning and acquisition of nonexpendable material are accomplished in Mexico City.

(2) (U) (C) Supplies, including military clothing, equipment, and rations, are distributed to units through the headquarters of each military zone. A quartermaster unit supports each zone and each tactical unit. Perishable items are purchased locally. The General Directorate of Military Transportation is responsible for all vehicles, including repair parts, fuels, and lubricants.

(3) (U) (C) The army stresses maintenance at the user level when practical. According to military publications, there are 56 direct-support maintenance centers to support units throughout the republic. Spare parts are purchased mostly through local commercial outlets. Wheeled vehicle parts, unavailable locally, are requested from Mexico City, with orders taking at least 30 days to fill. The engineering, quartermaster, ordnance, transportation, and communications services have central vehicle parks and repair shops in Mexico City. These facilities are capable of more extensive maintenance, overhaul, and repair.

b. (U) Transportation

(1) (S/NF) Mexico's land mass equates to slightly less than three times the size of Texas. Because of the elongated shape of Mexico and the length of its borders with three separate countries, air transport is vital. Because of the limited number of paved military airfields in the northern and extreme southern areas of the country, air transport is restricted in these areas. The army has no organic aircraft and depends on its subordinate air force for air transportation.

(2) (S/NF) The Mexican Army suffers from a lack of adequate ground transport assets.

However, the heterogeneous nature of the transport vehicle fleet and associated problems with maintenance further reduce the army's transport effectiveness.

(3) (C) The national road network is poor, which limits ground movement of forces and supplies. The country has a sufficient road infrastructure in and around the capital and major cities; however, this does not extend into rural areas. Mexico has 210,000 kilometers of highways. Of these, 65,000 kilometers are paved, 30,000 kilometers are semipaved or cobblestone, 60,000 kilometers are earth-surfaced, and 55,000 kilometers are unimproved earth track.

c. (U) Munitions

(1) (S/NF) Ammunition was allocated to Mexican military units

Caliber	Amount	Type of Round
---------	--------	---------------

Grenades:
Offensive/MKIII-3
Defensive
Antipersonnel
Antitank

(2) (SANT) [REDACTED]

Caliber Amount Type of Round

Grenades:
Offensive/MKIII-3
Defensive
Antipersonnel
Antitank
60mm

(3) (S) Mexican army munitions are stored at the unit's location once approval is given from Mexico City. [REDACTED]

3-9. (U) Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical

a. (S) Nuclear. Mexico is a substantial exporter of energy, of which a small amount is derived from nuclear generation. In addition, Mexico is known to possess at least one nuclear research center. However, Mexico is a current and practicing member of the Central American Nations Against the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and

claims not to carry any of these weapons in its inventory.

b. (U) Biological and Chemical

(1) (S) The Mexican Government has been known to store and use riot gas during displays of public disorder, but they have been nonpervasive in nature. In addition, chemical defoliants dispensed by a variety of land and air vehicles continue to be successfully used by the Mexican military in the war on drugs.

(2) (U) With friendly, unconventional US weapons just to the north and the absence of superior military forces to the south, the Mexican Government has felt little need for nuclear weapons or pervasive biological chemicals. Future production of such weapons is not anticipated, primarily because of the cost involved.

3-10. (U) Surface-to-surface Missiles

(S) The surface-to-surface missiles capability of the Mexican ground forces is practically nonexistent. The only weapon systems that could be considered are as follows:

Quantity	System
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

3-11. (U) Special Weapons

(S) Currently, Mexico does not possess any field-ready "special weapon" technology. The only exception is the multiple rocket launcher inventory listed in 3-10 and appendix A.

Chapter 4: Air and Naval Forces (U)

4-1. (U) Air Force

(U)
(S/NF) The Mexican Air Force organizationally falls under the army. For a discussion of the air force and the Attorney General's air assets, see Chapter 3, 3-6.

4-2. (U) Navy

a. (U) General

(U)
(1) (S/NF) The Secretary of the Navy is Admiral Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo. Admiral Ruano has modernization of the surface navy as his number one priority. He has designated a major portion of the 1992 Navy budget (389 million US dollars) toward this goal. Efforts are underway to modernize the two Gearing Class and one Fletcher Class destroyers currently in the naval inventory. In addition, with the proposed purchase of two retired US Bronstein Class frigates, three LST Class, and a McCloy Class vessel, Mexico will have its strongest fleet ever. However, the process will continue at a very slow rate because Admiral Ruano

must receive funding from the president on each individual project.

(U)
(2) (C/NF) The Mexican Navy budget for 1992 includes new ship and aircraft acquisitions, new marine units, and new naval sectors. Additional funds may be acquired for other special projects.

(3) (S/NF) Near the end of 1991, the Mexican Navy announced the establishment of six new naval regions and one new sector. Admiral Ruano's efforts to form new navy regions may be a move to decentralize control.

[REDACTED] If the region commanders in fact have operational control in their areas and are not mere figureheads, the new regions may enhance operational capability with decisions being made more quickly.

(4) (S/NF) Authorization to form marine regimental headquarters at the regional level [REDACTED] appears to signal the end of a year-long inquisition against the Mexican Marine Corps by Admiral

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Ruano. These plans seem to need only budgetary support to be realized.

(U)
(5) (C/NF) In the oceanography area, four meteorological stations have been established: two ashore and two aboard the logistics ships Zapoteco and Juasteco.

(U)
(6) (C/NF) Ship repair capabilities at Tampico Naval Shipyard were greatly enhanced with the use of the Navy's floating drydock.

b. (U) Training

(U)
(1) (C/NF) The naval academy is commanded by Rear Admiral Manuel Zermeno del Peon. Both marine and naval cadets attend the school, with new midshipmen becoming either surface line or marine officers.

(U)
(2) (C/NF) The naval academy is being reduced to two branches, Navy Surface and Marines, under the instruction of the Secretary of the Navy. Currently, academy studies include a generic line of studies for all cadets during the first four semesters. In the fifth through tenth semesters, cadets follow separate naval, naval air, or marine curricula. All curricula are heavy in topography. However, the naval air branch is to be deleted soon, with its placement being unknown at this time.

(3) (S/NF) Graduates of naval training centers over the last 3 years are:

356	Naval War College
2,292	Navy Petty Officer Training Center
37	Naval Aviation Specialty School
73	Antisubmarine School
116	Training Sailing Ship
133	Destroyer School
373	Parachutists School
263	Marine NCO School
39	Communications/Electricians School
22	Navy Medical School
426	Naval Academy
157	Graduates of schools in foreign countries

(U)
(4) (C) The Mexican Naval Aviation School is located on the north side of GEN Heriberto Jara International Airport in Veracruz. The school was founded on 1 September 1943 and is tasked with instructing students in fixed- and rotor-wing aircraft. It also provides aviation maintenance training. The school is staffed with 1 rear admiral, 8 captains, 52 officers, 52 NCOs, and 92 enlisted. There are 10 fixed-wing and 4 rotor-wing instructors assigned.

[REDACTED] The school also has 4 older link trainers for instrument training. Flight training is divided into fixed- and rotor-wing instruction. Each student receives 50 hours in the [REDACTED]. The fixed-wing students then receive 90 hours in the [REDACTED] and 120 hours in the [REDACTED]. Rotor-wing students follow their [REDACTED].

Application to the aviation school requires the individual be a graduate of the naval academy and to have served a minimum of 2 years with the surface fleet.

4-3. (U) Composition

(U)
a. (C) The Secretary of the Navy is a position filled through presidential appointment. The navy is centralized under the Chief of Naval operations (CNO) who reports directly to the Secretary of the Navy. The naval headquarters is in Mexico City and the basic administrative chain of command flows from the CNO to subordinate units afloat and ashore, including the individual schools and shipyards (see table 4-1). The fleet commands consist of the units of the Gulf Fleet, headquartered in Veracruz, and the Pacific Fleet, headquartered in Ico-cos, Acapulco Bay. The fleets are subdivided into flotillas; each includes a mixture of several types of ships and craft.

b. (S/NF) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The following is the latest order of battle for this zone:
[REDACTED]

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Table 4-1. (U) Naval Strength

Secretariat of the Navy

Personnel Strength: 37,000

► **Surface Navy**

Personnel Strength: 28,500

Marines: 8,000

Units: Flotillas; Naval Zones; Naval Regions

Ships and Craft:

[REDACTED]

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► **Naval Aviation**

Personnel Strength:

Units:

Aircraft:

transports

utility

trainer

helicopters

[REDACTED]

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Other recent naval acquisitions include:

[REDACTED]

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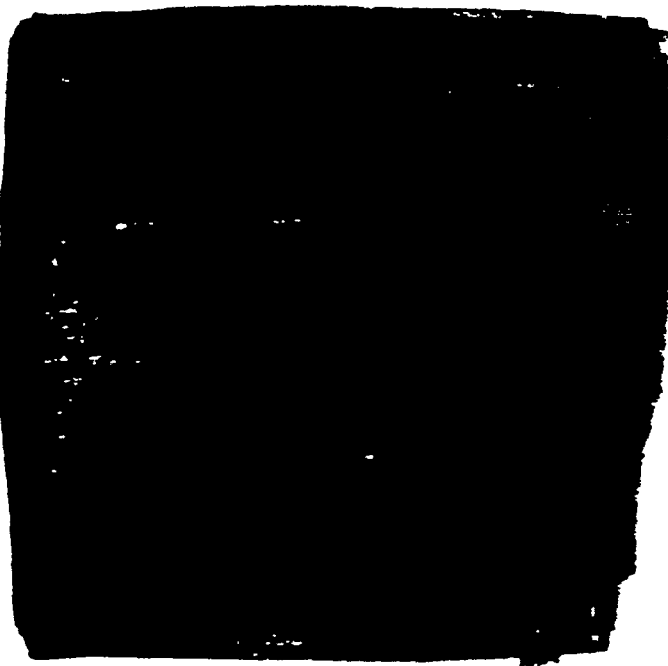
See figure 4-1 for an example of a naval base.

b. (U) Current Mexican Naval disposition can be located in figure 4-1, and a listing of command locations can be found in table 4-2. For additional information on naval air commands, see Chapter 3, 3-5 and table 3-3.

c. (C/NF) The Mexican Navy hierarchy has seen many command changes within the last year. Commands known at this time include:

Commander

Location

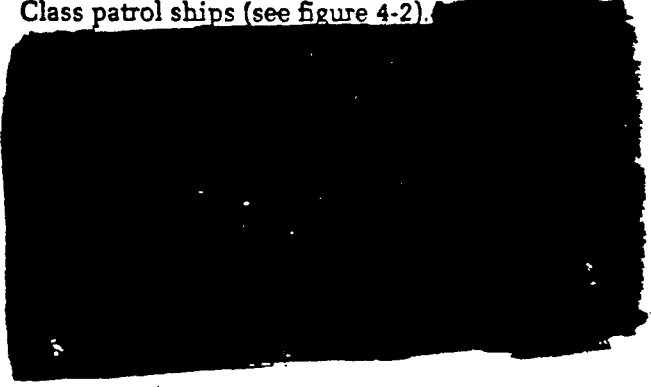


4-5. (U) Doctrine

(U) (C/NF) The primary mission of the Mexican Navy is to ensure the country's internal security and external defense. Responsibilities include the defense of Mexico's national interests and support to the government, protection of national activities in territorial waters or along the coastline, and support of the political goals of the administration. Special mission objectives include fishing surveillance, support to civil population in case of disaster, and specialized missions.

4-6. (U) Strength

a. (C/NF) The Mexican Navy is currently involved with the indigenously produced Aguila Class patrol ships (see figure 4-2).



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4-4. (U) Disposition

a. (C/NF)



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b. (U) (C/NF) The Mexican Navy has purchased 12 new fixed-wing aircraft from a commercial source in the United States. On 13 December 1991, the first three Maule aircraft arrived in Veracruz from their plant in Georgia, with the other nine due

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by March 1992. Reporting indicates that the aircraft will be used in the initial phase of flight training for the navy.

4-7. (U) Operations

(u)
a. ~~(C/NF)~~ During 1991, the Mexican Navy conducted 166 counterdrug operations, 233 naval air counterdrug operations, and 172 marine ground counterdrug operations.

(u)
b. ~~(C/NF)~~ The Mexican Army and Navy do not conduct joint operations. However, there have been occasions when they have cooperated (narcotics eradication and disaster relief) without any problems. As a rule, each secretariat acts independently in his area of jurisdiction. The Mexican Navy does not conduct combined operations with the US Coast Guard or the US Navy. However, it does conduct operations that coincide with the US Coast Guard.

c. ~~(C/NF)~~ The average age of the Mexican fleet is reported to be 43 years old, with maintenance being a constant challenge. However, the navy's greatest field of weakness appears to be intelligence. Without the aid of sufficient real-time intelligence, improved manpower and modern ship acquisitions will have a limited effect on operations capabilities.

4-8. (U) Reserves

(u)
a. ~~(C/NF)~~ More than 4,000 sailors annually complete 8 months of active duty training and receive their military service card. Training completion ceremonies are held across the country, normally at navy training centers and marine barracks.

(u)
b. ~~(C/NF)~~ With the removal of Rear Admiral Roy Vargas, the control of the reserve regiment has been passed to the direct control of the Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Mora.

(u)
c. ~~(C/NF)~~ Naval reserve training is limited to basic navy terminology, organization, close order drill, and a limited amount of small arms training.

4-9. (U) Marines

(u)
a. ~~(C/NF)~~ The Mexican Marine Forces are a branch of the Secretariat of the Navy. ADM Angula exercises control of the marines through the Chief of Naval Operations. A reorganization of the naval command structure in mid-1990 created the post of Commander of Marine Forces, filled by Vice Admiral Arturo Munoz Villafana. Although Admiral Munoz is the ranking marine, the Director General of Marine Forces is considered by many personnel in the field as the true commander. The Director General, ADM Jose Luis Munoz Mier, who serves on the Mexican Naval Staff under the Director of Technical Services, acts primarily as the administrative coordinator for Marine Corps matters (logistics and training of personnel). The exact relationship between the Director General and the Commander of the Marines is yet to be determined.


b. ~~(S/NF)~~ Marine combat units include



c. ~~(S/NF)~~



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d. (C/NF) Despite tripling in size over the last 12 years, the marine forces still lack the capability to perform all officially assigned missions. The

marines can secure naval installations and other vital facilities and conduct counterdrug operations adequately. They lack manpower, equipment, and training to accomplish their other missions. The vast coastal and riverine areas assigned as a Marine responsibility would require a far larger and better equipped force. In addition, since the marines receive no support from the air force, they must rely on the much smaller naval aviation branch for air support.

Chapter 5: Paramilitary Forces (U)

5-1. (U) The Rural Defense Corps

(U) (GAF) The Rural Defense Corps (*Cuerpos de Defensas Rurales*—CDR) is a paramilitary 14,000-man volunteer force of 13 infantry and 13 cavalry (horse) corps. The Rurales, in various forms, have existed in Mexico for over 100 years. Each CDR corps is subordinate to its military zone commander. The Rurales units are commanded by regular army generals and colonels assisted by a small staff of active duty officers. CDR troops are provided weapons and uniforms but must procure their own horses. CDR troops do not receive regular pay but are eligible for other benefits. A corps, authorized from 226 to 1,050 personnel, has very

little combat capability and is equipped with only older small arms. The CDR corps assemble twice a month to train or conduct operations. The Rurales assist the regular Army military zone garrisons in internal security, including the antinarcotics campaign. The CDR units also carry out patrols, act as a source of guides, and provide intelligence, particularly in isolated areas. In time of war, the CDR would act as a local defense and rear area security force. The Secretary of National Defense has ordered zone commanders to aid CDR commanders in recruitment, military training, and education through coordination with state and local governments. He also has authorized CDR members and dependents free medical care from active duty army units.

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Chapter 6: Foreign Forces (U)

(U) There are no foreign military forces in Mexico.

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(U) [REDACTED] "Navy Staff Restructuring" (U). IIR [REDACTED] 21 October 1991 (CONFIDENTIAL).

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Appendix A: Weapons and Equipment (U)

Weapons and Equipment Inventory¹

Quantity/Item Acquired	Model	Producer	Year
<i>Army Inventory</i>			
Armored Vehicles			
122 armored cars	ERC-90 F1 Lynx	Panhard, FR	1981-85
40 light armored cars	MAC-1 (MEX-1)	Chrysler, US	1963-64
58 light armored cars	M-8	US	1940s
30 light armored cars, 1974	Roland	MOWAG, SW	1974
40 armored personnel carriers	VCR/TT	Panhard, FR	1987-88
40 armored personnel carriers	HWK-11	Henschel, FRG	1964-65
31 half-track personnel carriers	M2A1	US	1940s
17 armored reconnaissance vehicles	DN-III Caballo	DINA-MX	1981-84
22 armored reconnaissance vehicles	DN-IV	DINA-MX	1981-84
39 armored reconnaissance vehicles	DN-V Toro	DINA-MX	1984-88
32 light armored reconnaissance vehicles	VBL M-11	Panhard, FR	1985
8 light armored antitank vehicles	VBL M-11 MILAN	Panhard, FR	1985
2 armored command vehicles	M3/VPC	Panhard, F	1985
1 armored recovery vehicle	VCR/AT	Panhard, FR	1985
1 armored ambulance	VCR/IS	Panhard, FR	1985
16 105mm howitzers	M3	US	1940s
44 105mm howitzers	M2A1	US	1940s
12 (estimated) 105mm howitzers	M101	US	1960/70s
6 105mm howitzers	M101A2	US	1988
25 105mm pack howitzers	M56	OTO Melara, IT	1988
6 75mm self-propelled howitzers	DN-V Buffalo	US/MX	1942/86
18 75mm pack howitzers	M116	US	1940s
4 75mm pack howitzers (horse drawn)	ceremonial	unknown	unknown
16 120mm heavy mortars	unknown	FR	1958
24 120mm heavy mortars	MO-120-RT-61	Brandt, FR	1987
42 120mm heavy mortars	unknown	DINA-MX	1980s
300 81mm mortars	various	US/MX	1940-80s
1,050 60mm light mortars	various	US/FR/MX	1940-80s
8 antitank guided missile launchers	MILAN	Euromissil	1985
28 37mm antitank guns	M3	US	1940s
420 88.9mm (3.5 in) rocket launchers	M20 Super-Bazooka	US	1950s
60 59.9mm (2.36 in) rocket launchers	M9A1 Bazooka	US	1940s

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Quantity/Item Acquired	Model	Producer	Year
Small Arms³			
150 7.62mm light machineguns	unknown	Ameli, SP	1989
4,284 7.62mm rifles	G-3	MX/FRG	1980s
150 40mm grenade launchers	CIS 40 GL	Singapore	1988
Motor Transport⁴			
22 amphibious vehicles	VAP-3550 Pegaso	SP	1981-82
201 1/4-, 3/4-, 2.5-ton trucks	M151,M561,M35	US	1988
560 3/4-ton trucks	M561 Gamma Goats	US	1989

¹ The Mexican Army purchased a wide variety of US military equipment following World War II. Major items included 25 M4 medium tanks, 25 M3 light tanks, 25 M5A1 light tanks, 6 M-8 75mm self-propelled howitzers, 50 or more M2A1 halftracks, 100 M3A1 scout cars, 58 or more M-8 light armored cars, 44 M2A1 105mm howitzers, 16 M3 105mm howitzers, and 18 M116 75mm pack howitzers. Of this equipment, only some of the M-8 light armored cars, M2A1 halftracks, and the howitzers are considered operational. The 75mm howitzers from the M-8s were remounted on DN-V Buffalos in 1986.

² The listing of small arms is not all inclusive; the Mexican Army possesses a wide variety of other rifles, carbines, submachine guns, and pistols. The G-3 has replaced the FN-FAL as the standard weapon of the Mexican Army.

³ This small arms list is not all-inclusive.

⁴ An additional 401 HMMWVs are scheduled for delivery in (1991) under foreign military sales and direct commercial contracts. Over 700 used US tactical vehicles (primarily M151, M561, and M35 trucks) are also scheduled for delivery.

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Appendix C: Personnel and Equipment of Mexican Ground Combat Units (U)

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